

YEHUDI MERCADO

CHUNKY





CHUNKY

This book is dedicated to
drama teacher Mrs. Miller



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FIRST EDITION

YEHUDI MERCADO

CHUNKY



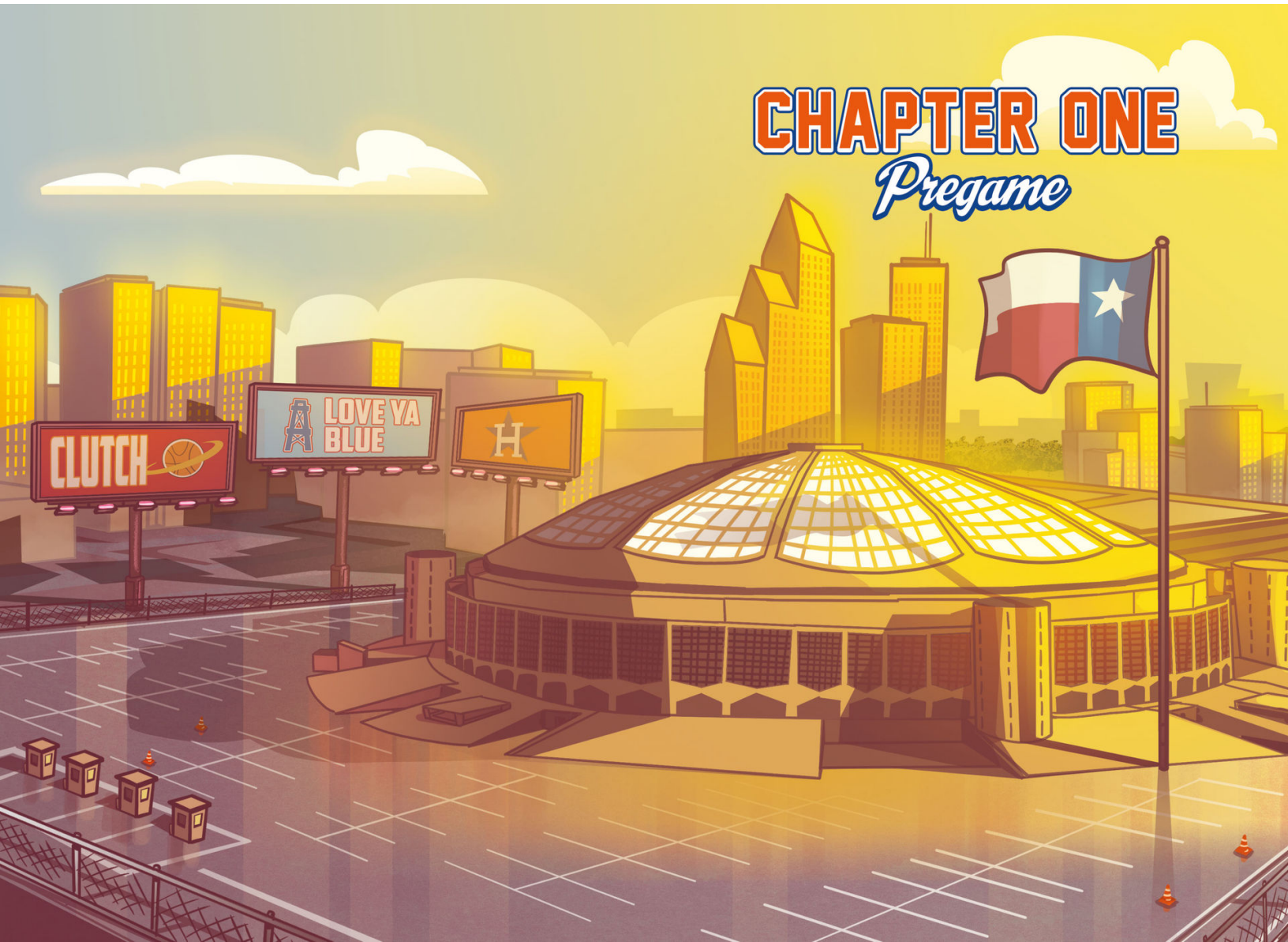
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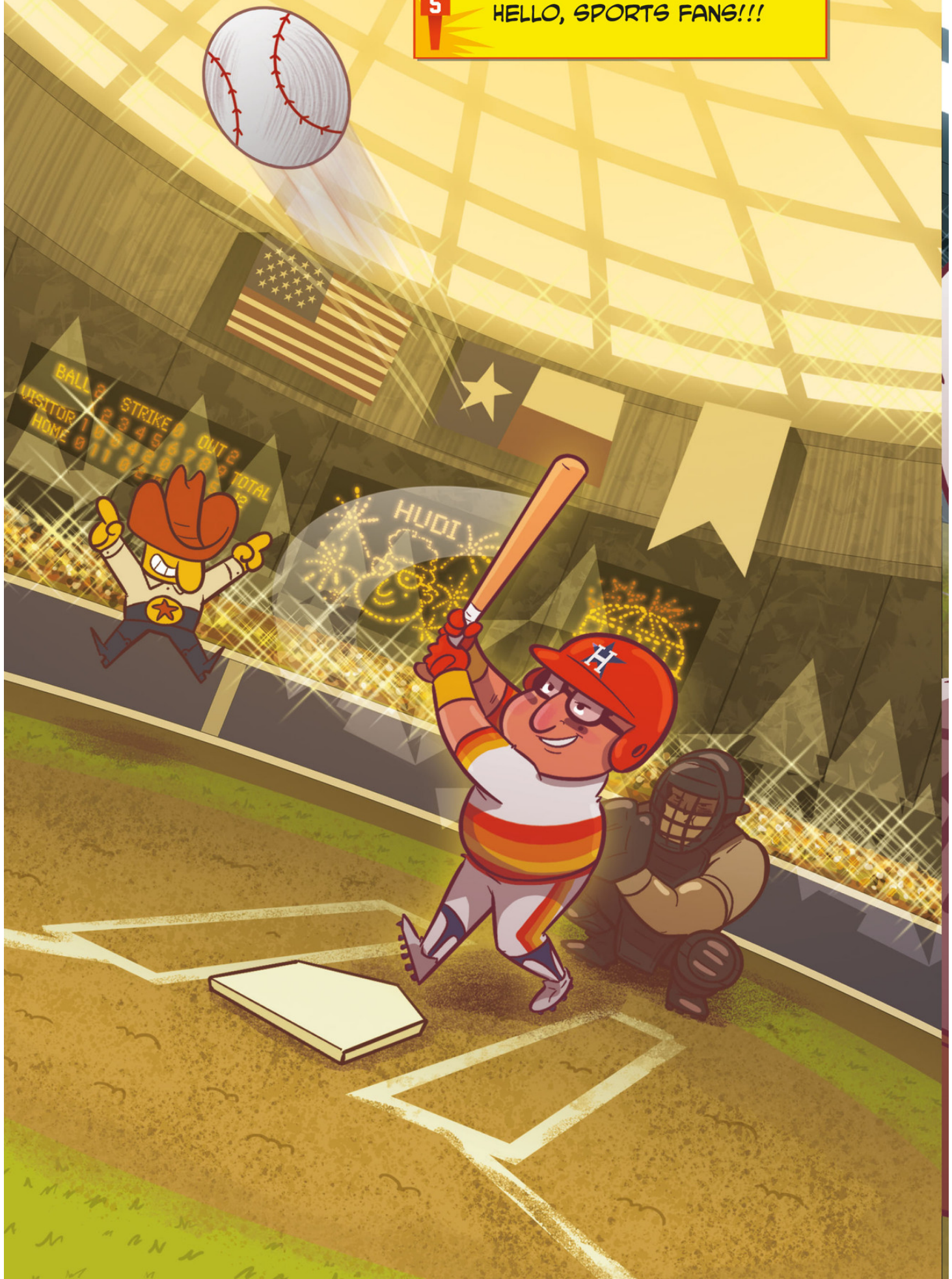


CHAPTER ONE

Pregame



S HELLO, SPORTS FANS!!!





WELCOME TO ANOTHER
GREAT SEASON!



WHAT A DAY FOR A GAME!



SPORTS ARE WHAT
SEPARATE THE MEN
FROM THE BOYS.



S

A WIN CAN MAKE YOUR DAY . . .



HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

HUDI!

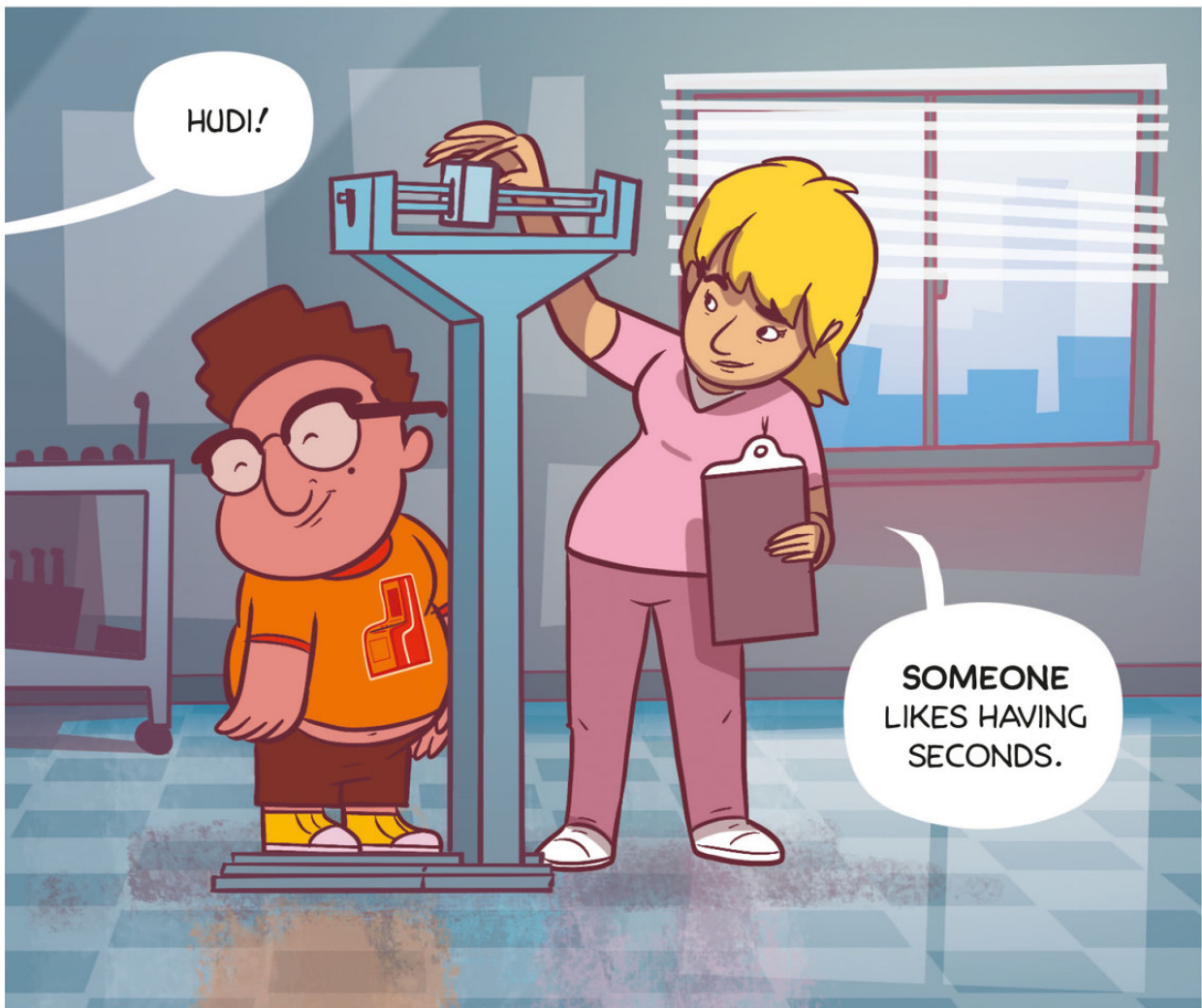
HUDI!

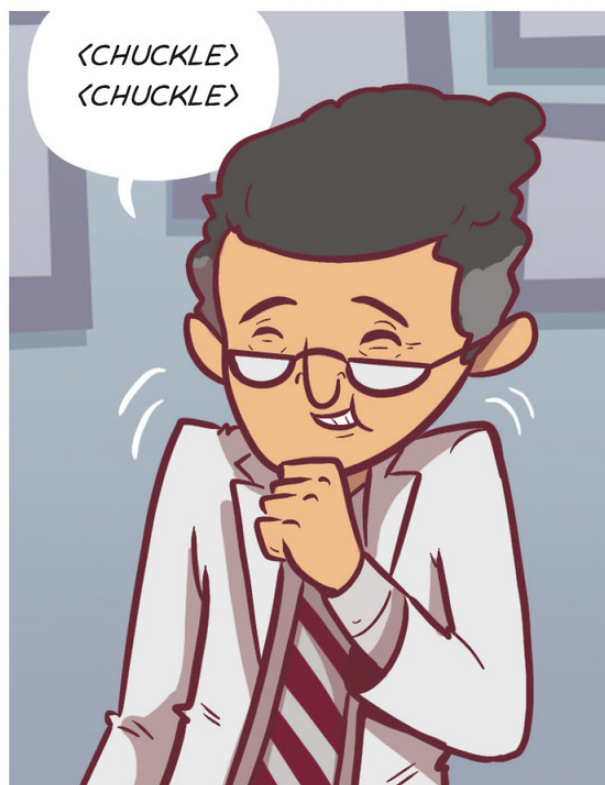
HUDI!

HUDI!

S

. . . BUT A LOSS CAN RUIN YOUR LIFE.































C'MON,
YOU'RE NOT
THAT BIG.











UMMM . . . DON'T
YOU HAVE TO BE
ATHLETIC TO BE AN
ATHLETE?



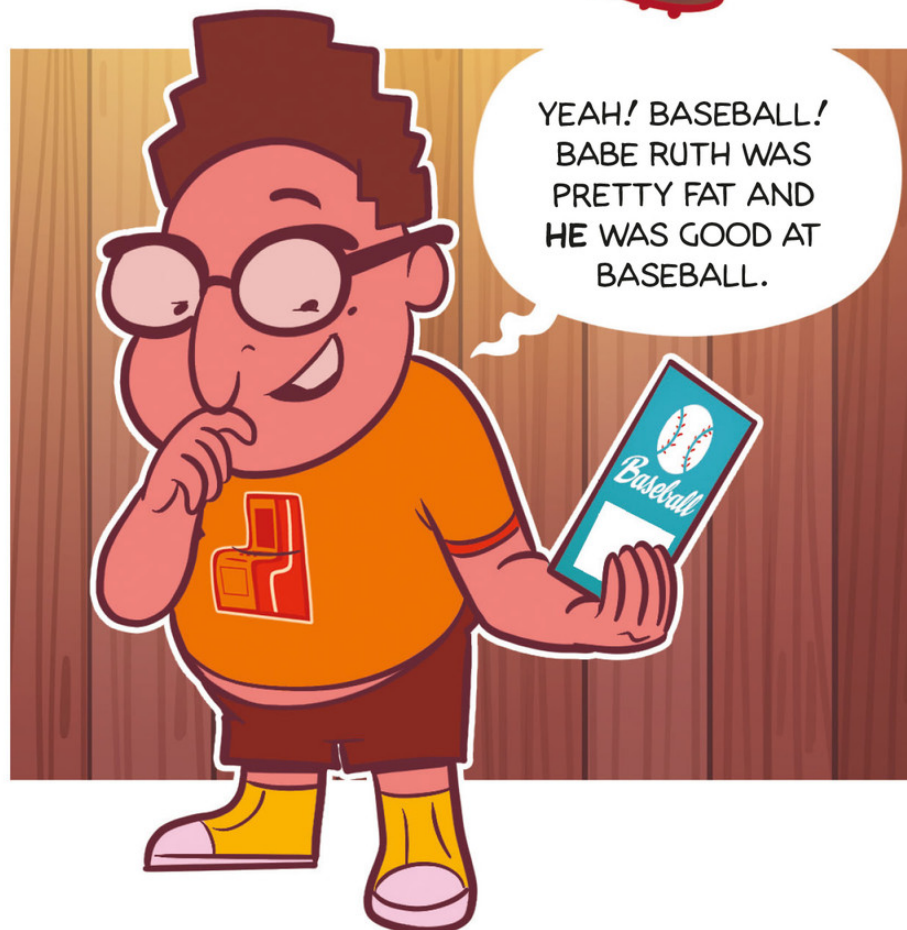
I WAS NEVER THE
BIGGEST PLAYER. MY
COACHES TOLD ME
MANY TIMES THAT I
WAS TOO SMALL FOR
THE TEAM.



AND THAT I
WOULD **NEVER** BE
AS GOOD AS MY
BROTHER.

BUT . . . THAT'S
WHAT MADE ME
TRY EVEN HARDER.







YOU'RE GONNA HAVE
TO CLEAR SOME
ROOM FOR ALL
THE TROPHIES I'M
GONNA WIN.

CHAPTER TWO

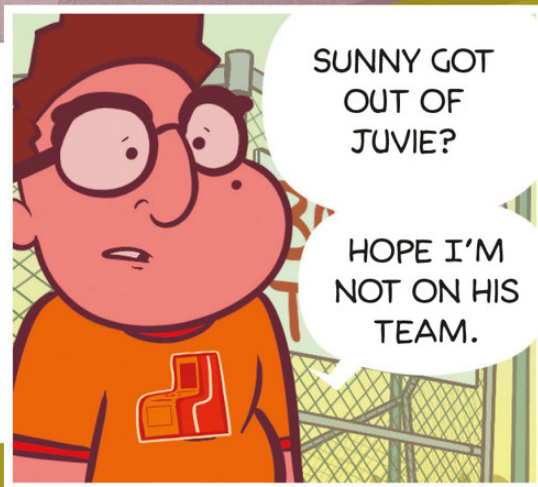
Baseball

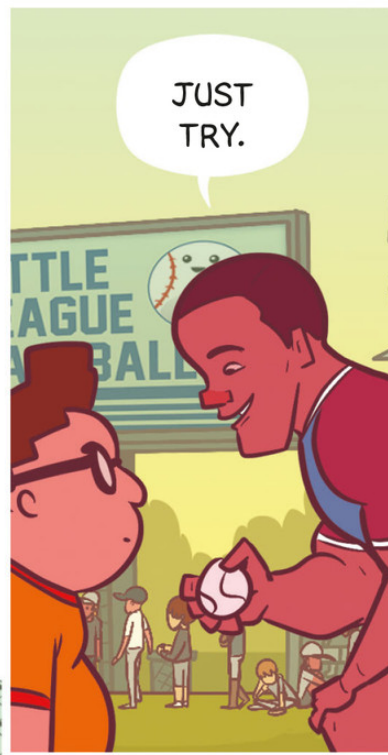




THERE'S NOTHING LIKE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TRYOUTS! LET'S SEE HOW ROOKIE PLAYER HUDI SIZES UP AGAINST HIS COMPETITION.







WHY DIDN'T
YOU PLAY
LAST YEAR?

UH...

HOW DOES
THIS WORK?
ARE ALL THE
M'S ON ONE
TEAM?



NO, WE'RE
GOING TO GET
ONE AT BAT.



SMACK!!

IF YOU
HIT A
TRIPLE—

YOU HAVE
TO HIT
THREE
PEOPLE?

NO, A TRIPLE IS
IF YOU CAN RUN
TO THIRD BASE
AFTER YOU HIT
THE BALL.



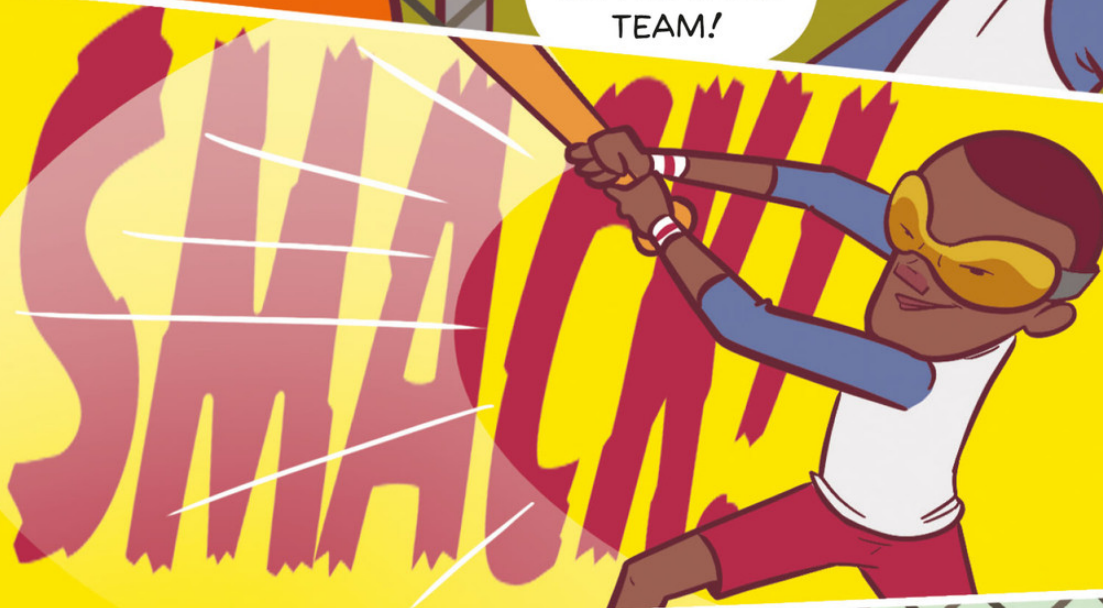


IF I HIT A **HOMER**,
THEY'LL HAVE TO
MAKE A SEPARATE
DIVISION JUST
FOR ME.

THEN I'M GOING
TO LEVERAGE MY
SPORTS NOTORIETY
INTO A COMEDY
CAREER—

BATTER UP!
LET'S GO!

I HOPE WE'RE
ON THE SAME
TEAM!



WOW! A
DOUBLE!

LET'S
GO! NEXT
BATTER!



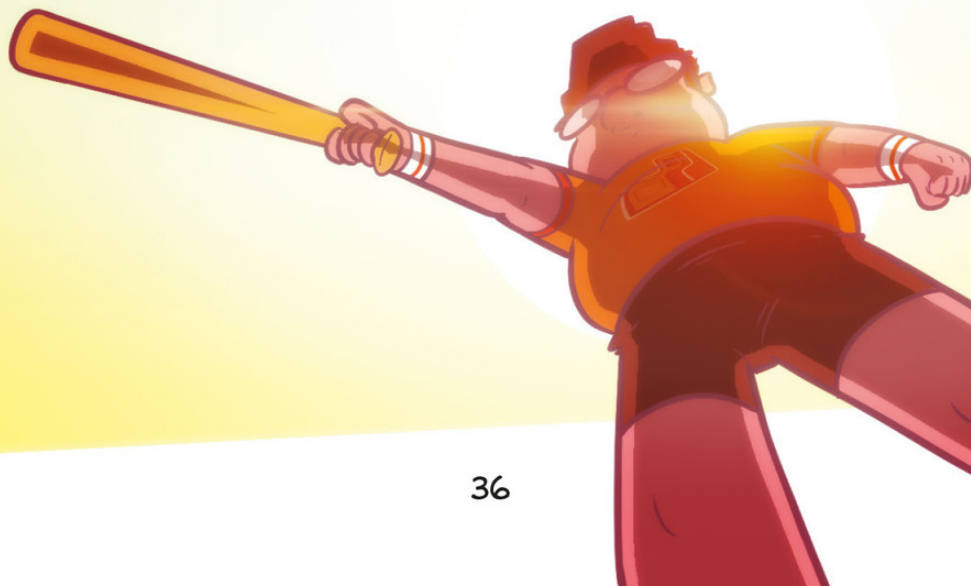
HERE WE ARE, FOLKS. BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, TIED UP, FULL COUNT.

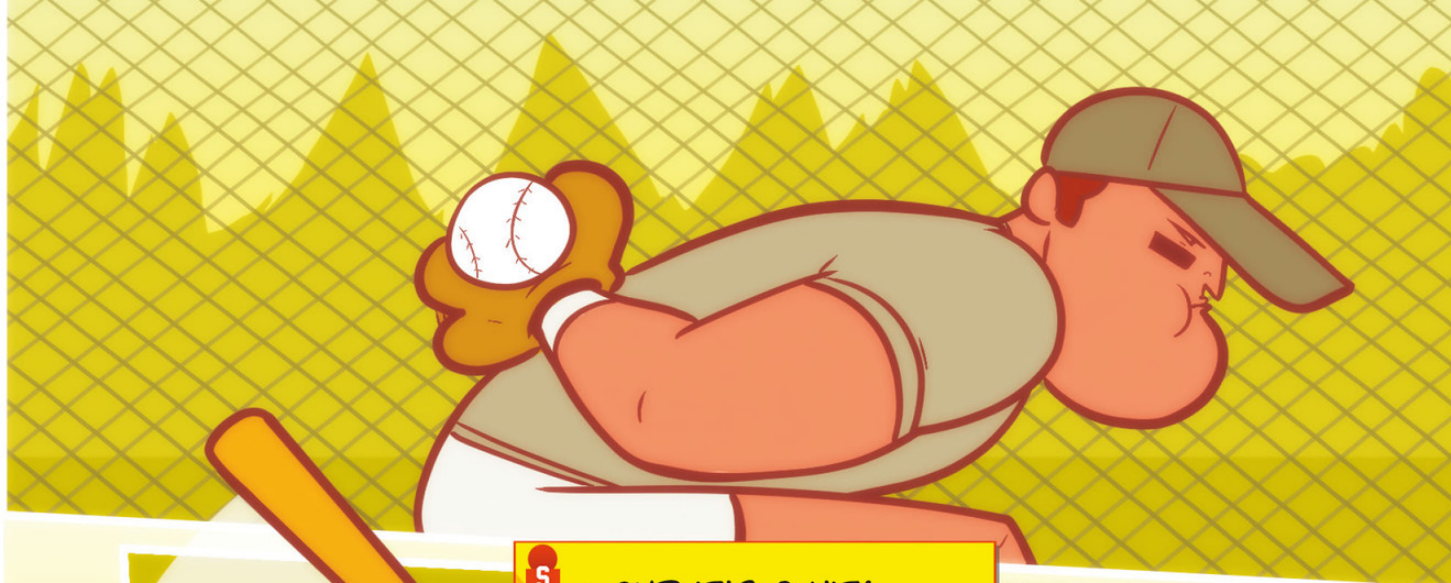


THIS ROOKIE HAS ONE SHOT . . .



ONE SHOT TO BECOME A LEGEND.





AND IT'S A HIT!

SMACK



RUUUUNNN!!!!



THAT BALL IS STILL GOING!



CAN-HE-DO-IT???



UNBELIEVABLE!



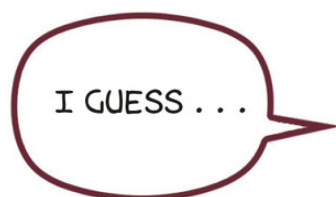
NEVER IN ALL MY YEARS
OF SPORTSCASTING HAVE
I EVER SEEN SUCH AN
EXPLOSIVE DEBUT!



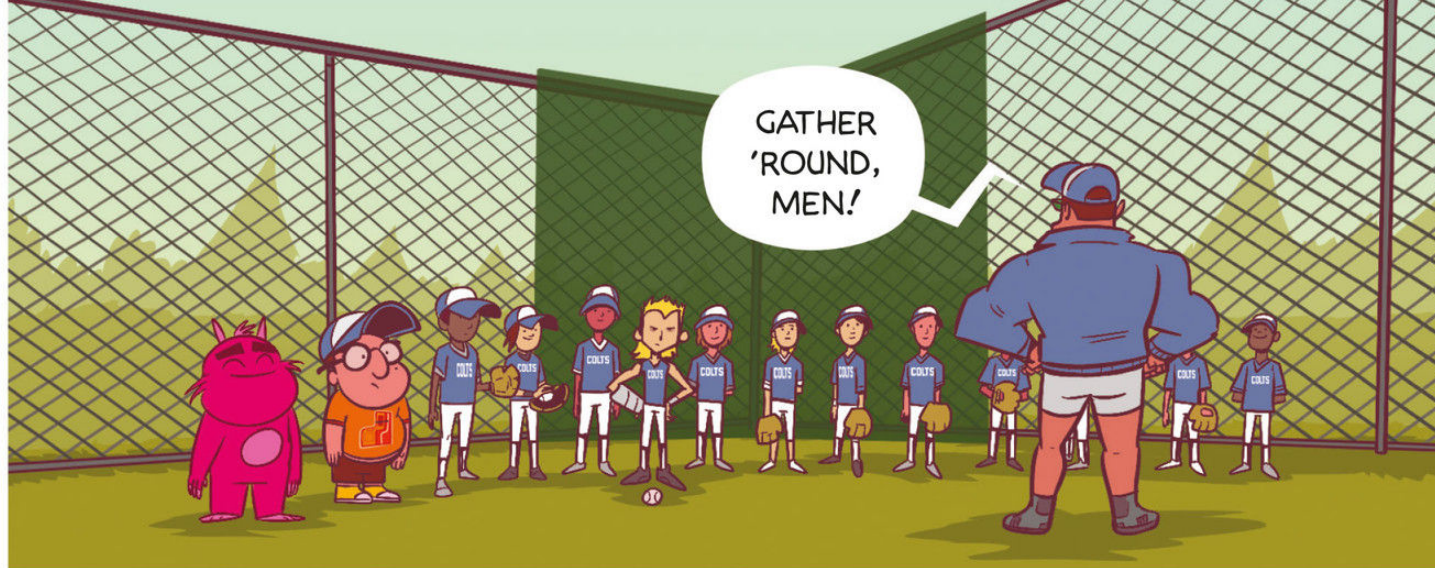
ALL THE
WAY
HOME!!!



I'M SORRY, FOLKS, SEEMS AS
THOUGH WE'VE BEEN TRICKED BY
ONE OF HUDI'S DAYDREAM.







GATHER
'ROUND,
MEN!



WHY'S
SUNNY
HERE?



WHY ARE YOU
NOT WEARING
YOUR UNIFORM,
MERCADO?

I . . . I THINK
THEY RAN
OUT. THEY'RE
SUPPOSED TO
SEND ME A NEW
ONE SOON.

OKAY, BUT IF
YOU DON'T
HAVE ONE BY
THURSDAY, LET
ME KNOW.

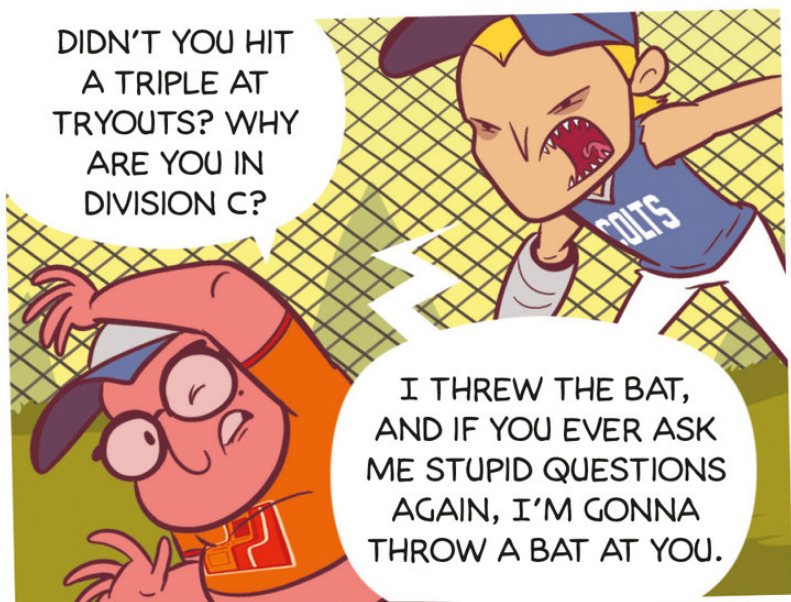
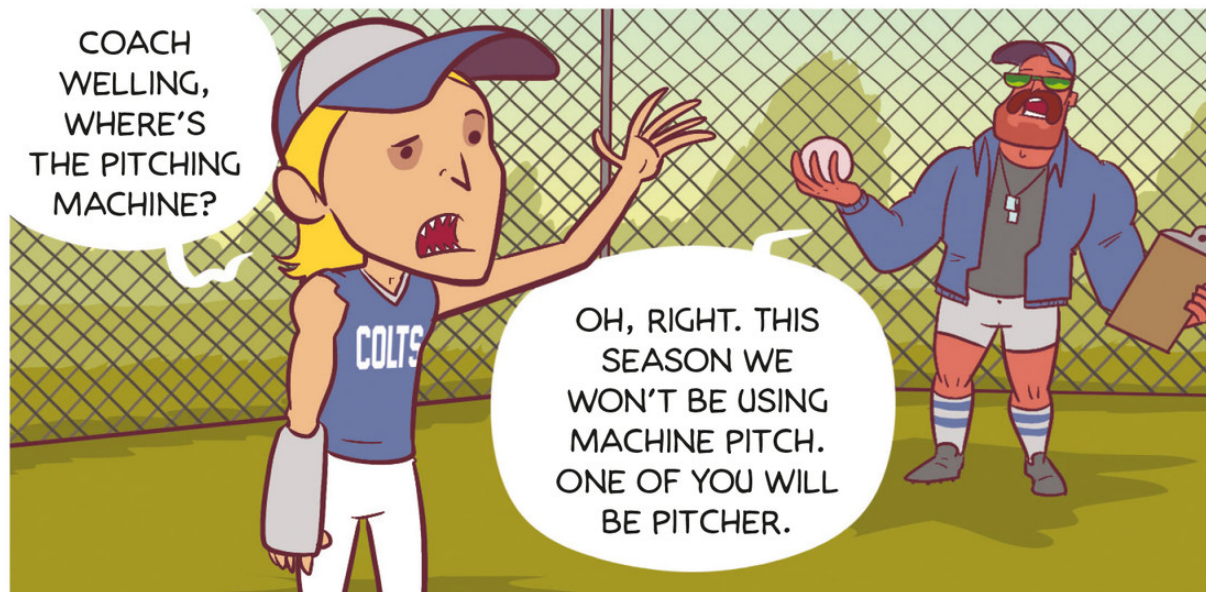
IT'S AGAINST
THE RULES TO
PLAY A GAME
WITHOUT
THE PROPER
UNIFORM.



AYE, AYE,
CAPTAIN.

COACH IS
FINE.





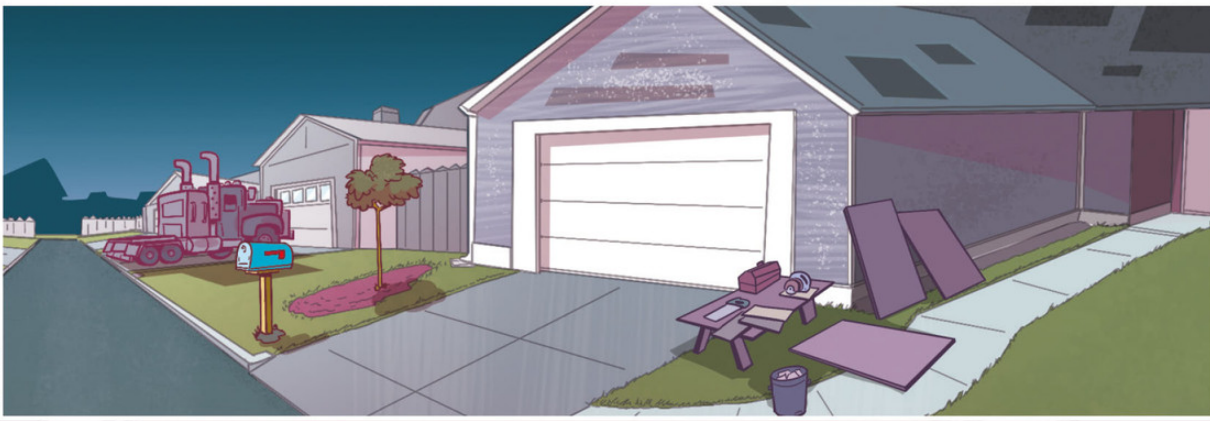
5

THE PLAYERS TAKE THE FIELD.



MERCADO,
YOU'RE LIKE
LONDON
BRIDGE . . . ALWAYS
FALLIN' DOWN.





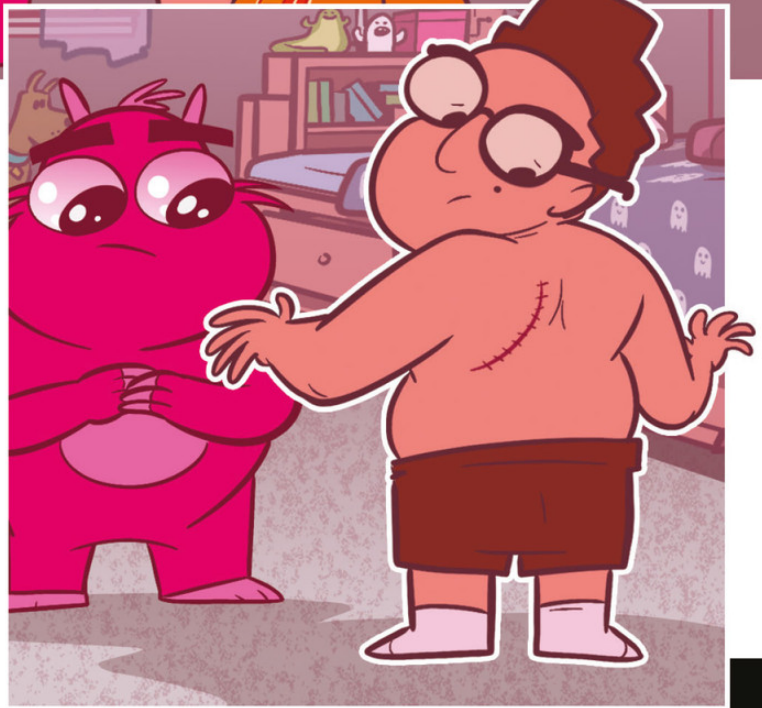


IT'S FUNNY
EVERY TIME.

I DON'T KNOW
WHY THAT IS,
BUT IT'S FUNNY
EVERY TIME.



THIS SHIRT
STINKS LIKE
EXERCISE.



OH, DO YOU
REMEMBER
HOW YOU GOT
THAT SCAR?



YOU WERE IN
THAT BUILDING
FULL OF
NINJAS.

OH,
YEAH . . .

S

CUE DREAM SEQUENCE.



WOOOOOSH



BOOOOM

DON'T YOU
QUIT ON ME,
CHUNKY!

AND THEN THE LAST
NINJA CHOPPED YOU
AND WE JUMPED
OUT THE WINDOW
AS THE WHOLE
BUILDING EXPLODED!



MY
LUNG!!!!

I'M ONLY
GONNA HAVE
ONE LUNG
NOW!!!!



HITOLE.

NO
JUMPING!

I'M JUST
CONCERNED
ABOUT HUDI'S
HEALTH.

THE LUNG
OPERATION WAS A
LOT MORE DIFFICULT
THAN WE HAD
THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE.

I DON'T WANT HIS
ASTHMA TO GET
WORSE AND I DON'T
WANT THE MEDICAL
BILLS TO GET WORSE.

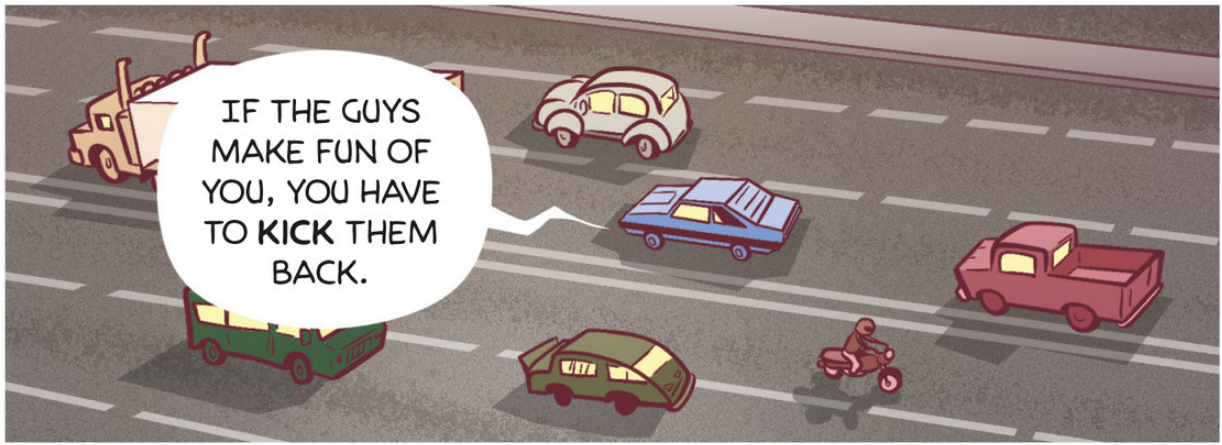
PLUS WYNNIE'S
BAT MITZVAH . . .

I WILL KNOW
MORE ABOUT
LAYOFFS NEXT
WEEK.

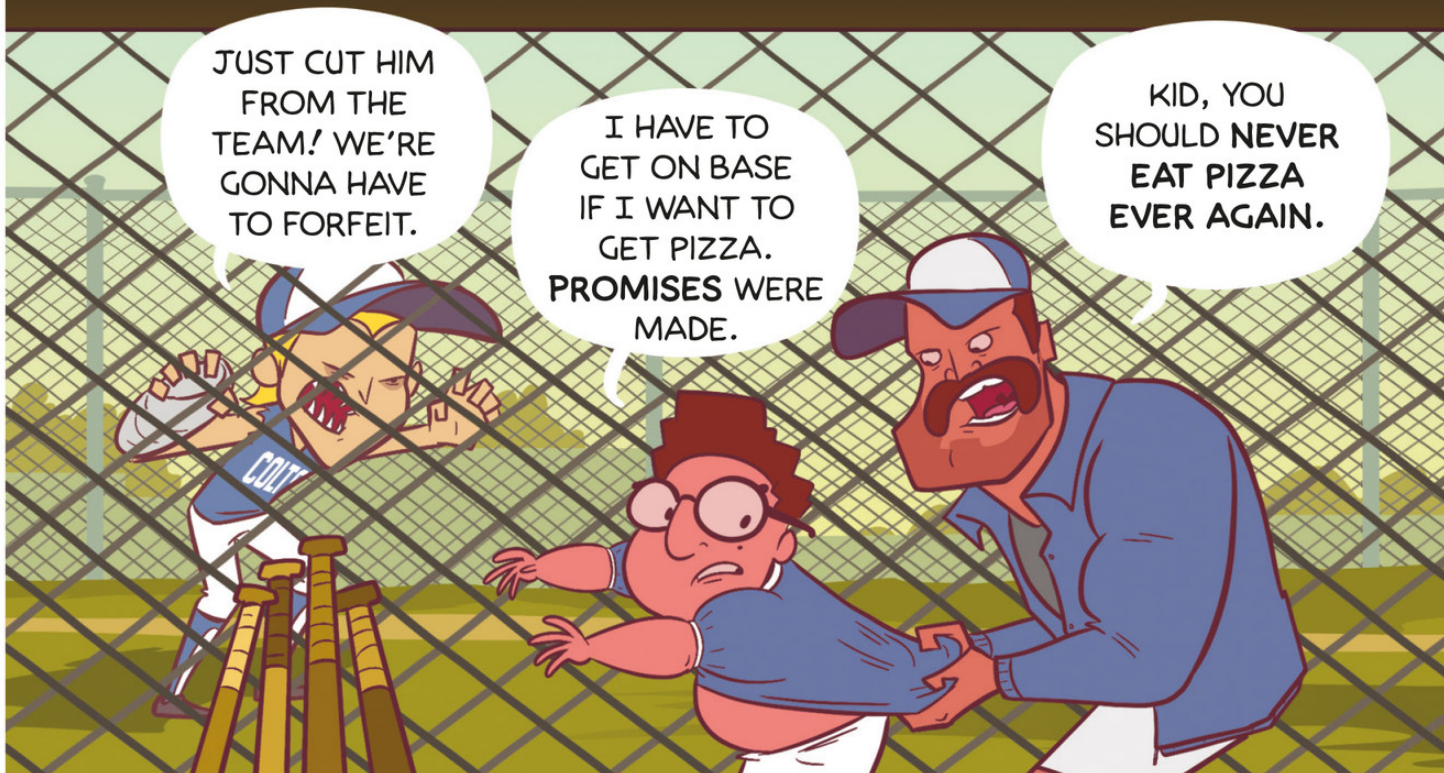
I'M SURE
YOU'LL BE
FINE.

AT LEAST I
WILL GET TO
GO TO HUDI'S
FIRST GAME
TOMORROW.



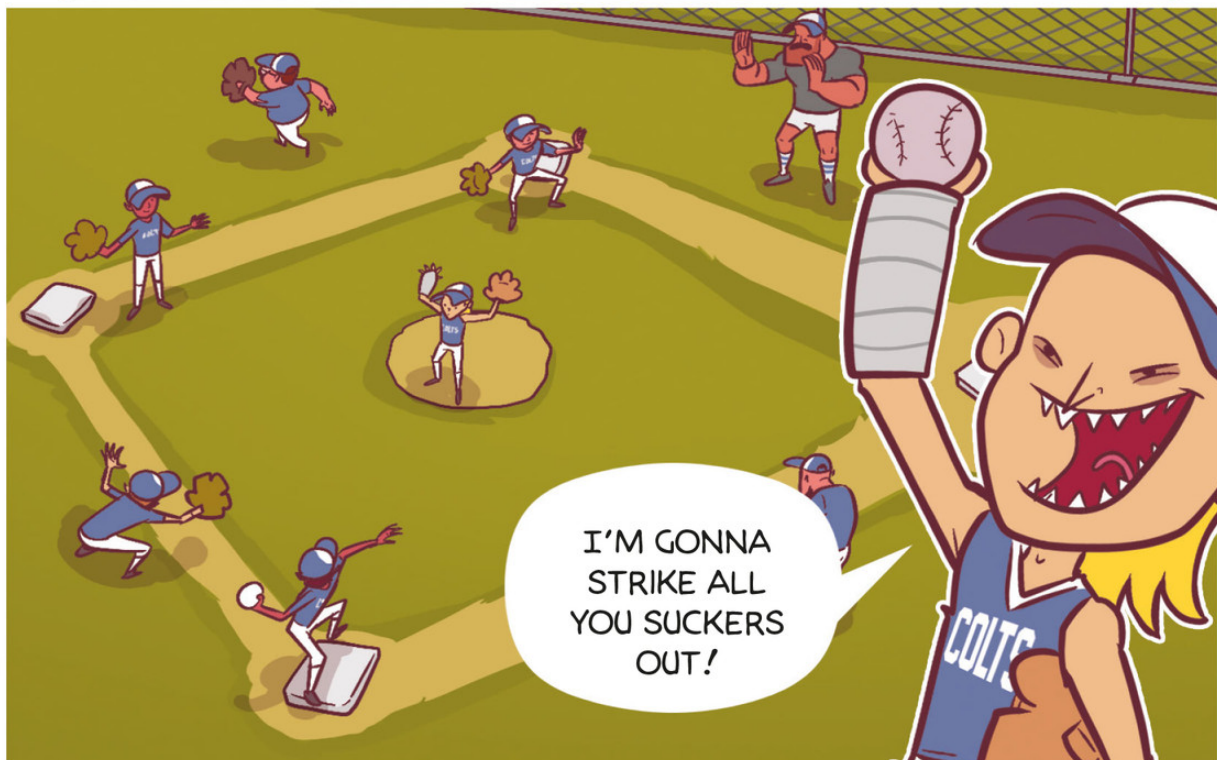








IT'S THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON, COLTS VS. PIRATES, AND SUNNY HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO BE THE TEAM'S PITCHER.





HUDI IS IN LEFT FIELD PRETENDING HE'S DOING A CHARACTER ON *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*.



SOMEONE HAS CAUGHT HUDI'S SHORTER THAN SHORT ATTENTION.





S

BOTTOM OF THE EIGHTH AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE ROOKIE HUDI'S LAST CHANCE AT BAT.

CY-FAIR FIELD											
BALL	STRIKE	OUT									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
COLTS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PIRATES	3	0	1	2	1	0	2	2			12



S

WITH A RECORD OF ZERO HITS, HUDI IS LOOKING TO BREAK THAT STREAK.

HEY, COACH. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND THE STRIKE ZONE? HE'S SO FAT, HE'S COVERING THE ENTIRE PLATE.

JUST THINK OF THE PIZZA, HUDI!

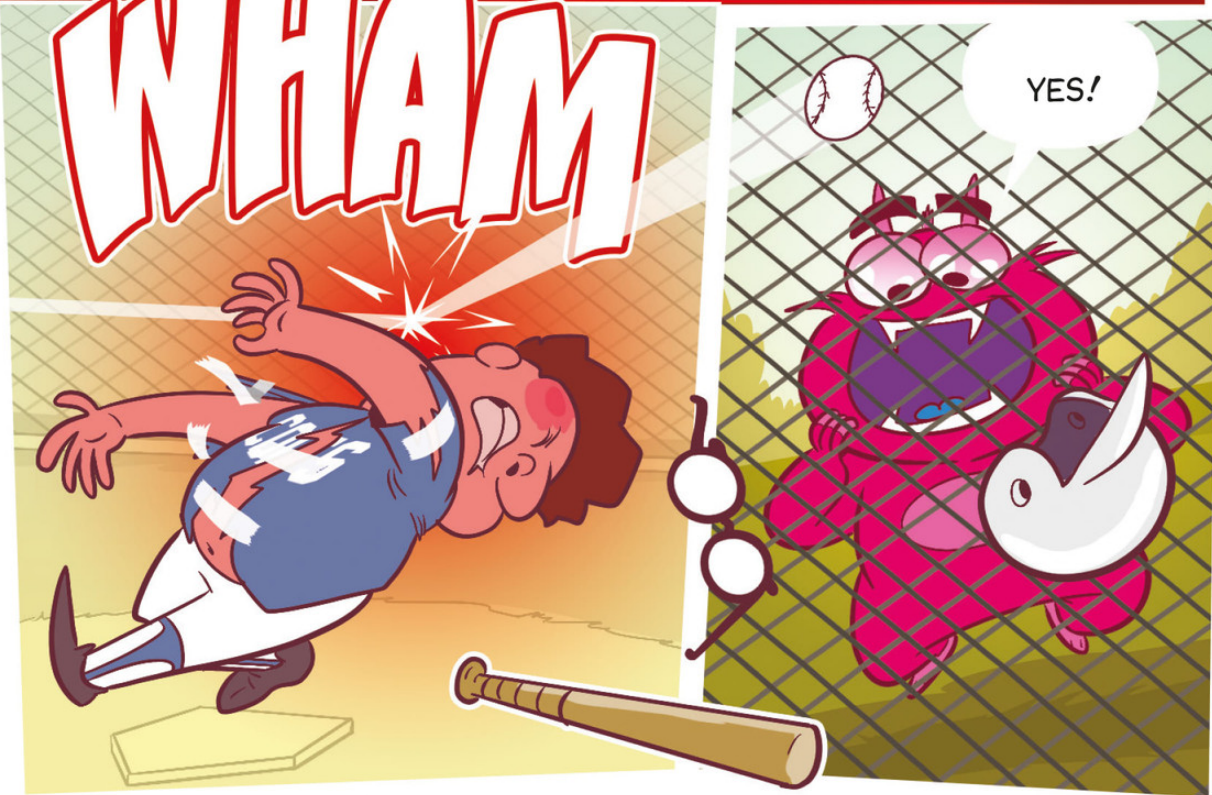
DO IT FOR THE PIZZA.

S

TODAY IS HUDI'S DAY AND—



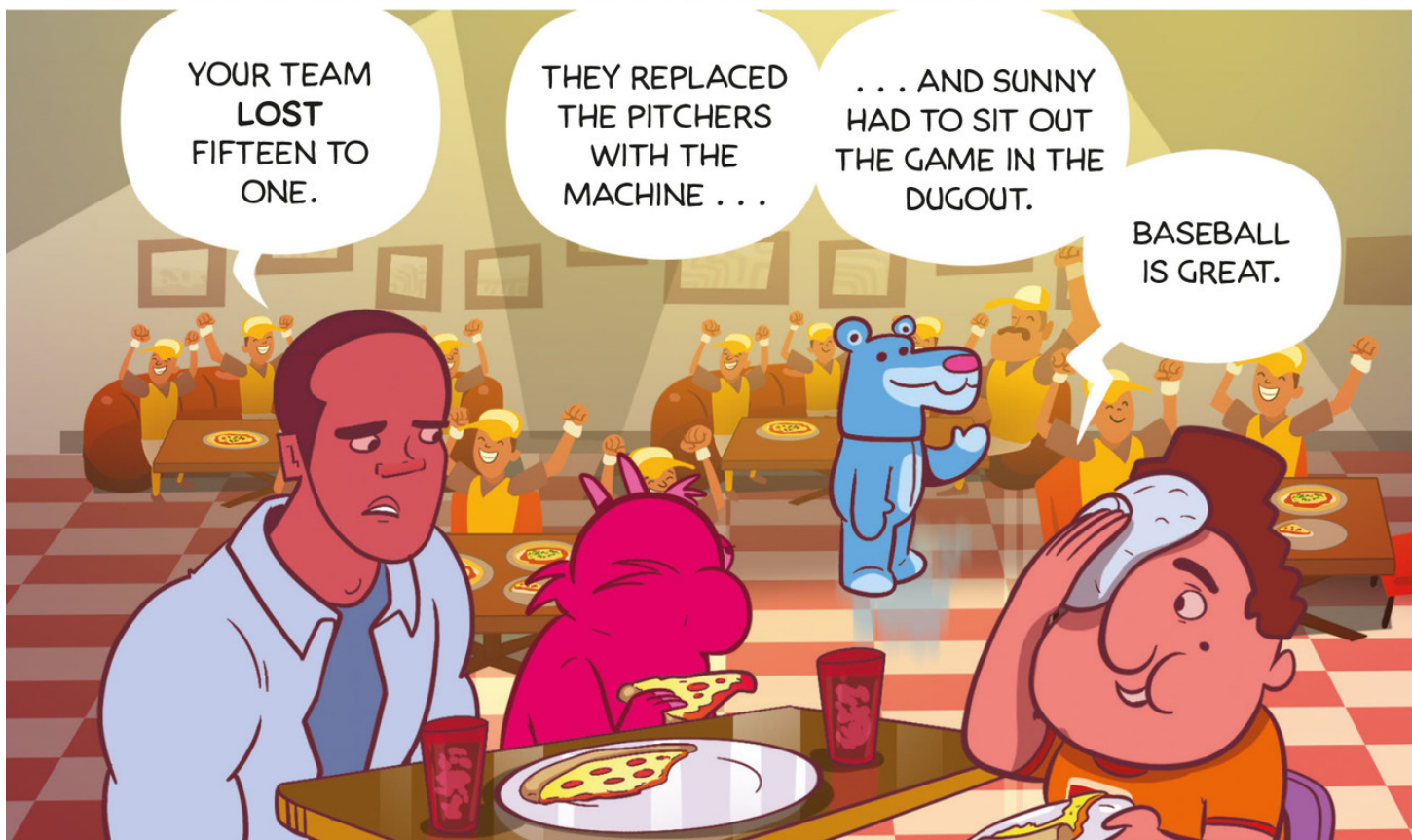
WHAM



NOPE, LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT HUDI'S LUCKY DAY.



NEVER IN MY YEARS OF SPORTSCASTING HAVE I EVER SEEN A PLAYER SO HAPPY TO GET HIT IN THE FACE WITH A BASEBALL.



POSTGAME WRAP-UP

HOW DID YOU
FEEL THE
CHAPTER
WENT?

THE CHAPTER WAS
GOOD. IT HAD TO
ESTABLISH A LOT,
WE MET A LOT OF
CHARACTERS. THE **REAL**
MVP WAS CHUNKY.

IT'S A **TEAM**
EFFORT. I'M
JUST HERE TO
MAKE SURE HUDI
STAYS HUDI.

ARE YOU
AFRAID
PEOPLE WILL
THINK YOU'RE
CRAZY?

THIS IS A
COMEDY.
A SPORTS
COMEDY.



CHAPTER THREE

Soccer



S

WELCOME BACK, FANS! AFTER MASTERING BASEBALL, OUR ROOKIE HAS A NEW SPORT TO CONQUER.



BAGEL DAY!

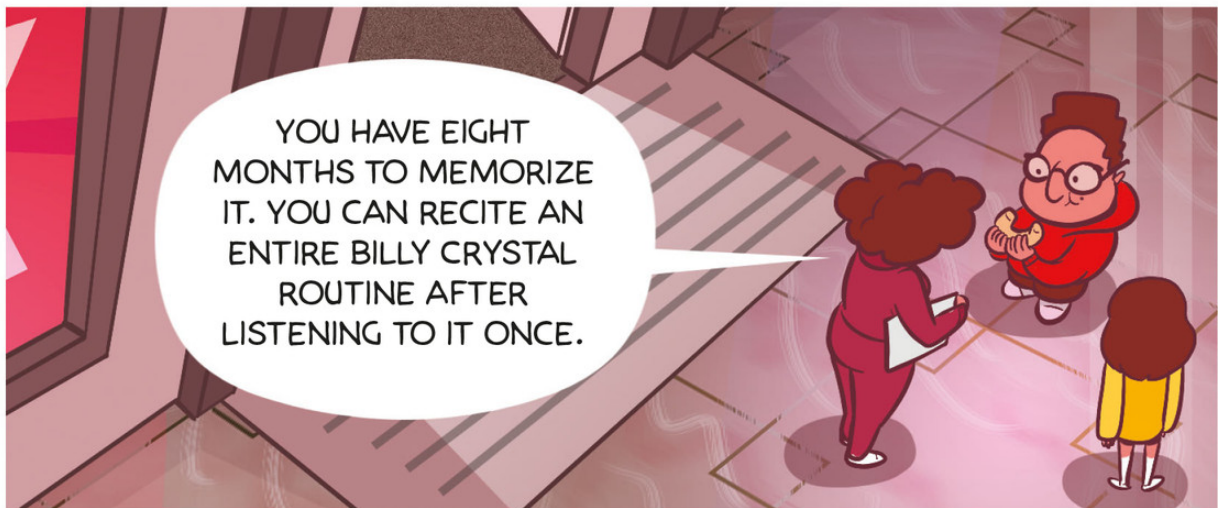
HOLD ON, HUDI,
DID YOU GET THE
PASSAGE YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
MEMORIZE?

IT'S
WYNNIE'S BAT
MITZVAH. WE
ALL HAVE A
PART.

HE'S JUST GOING
TO MAKE FACES
AND TRY TO
MAKE PEOPLE
LAUGH WHEN HE'S
ONSTAGE.



SHE'S NOT
WRONG.





OKAY, LEMME
JUST SEE HOW
EVERYONE KICKS
AND WE'LL FIGURE
OUT POSITIONS.

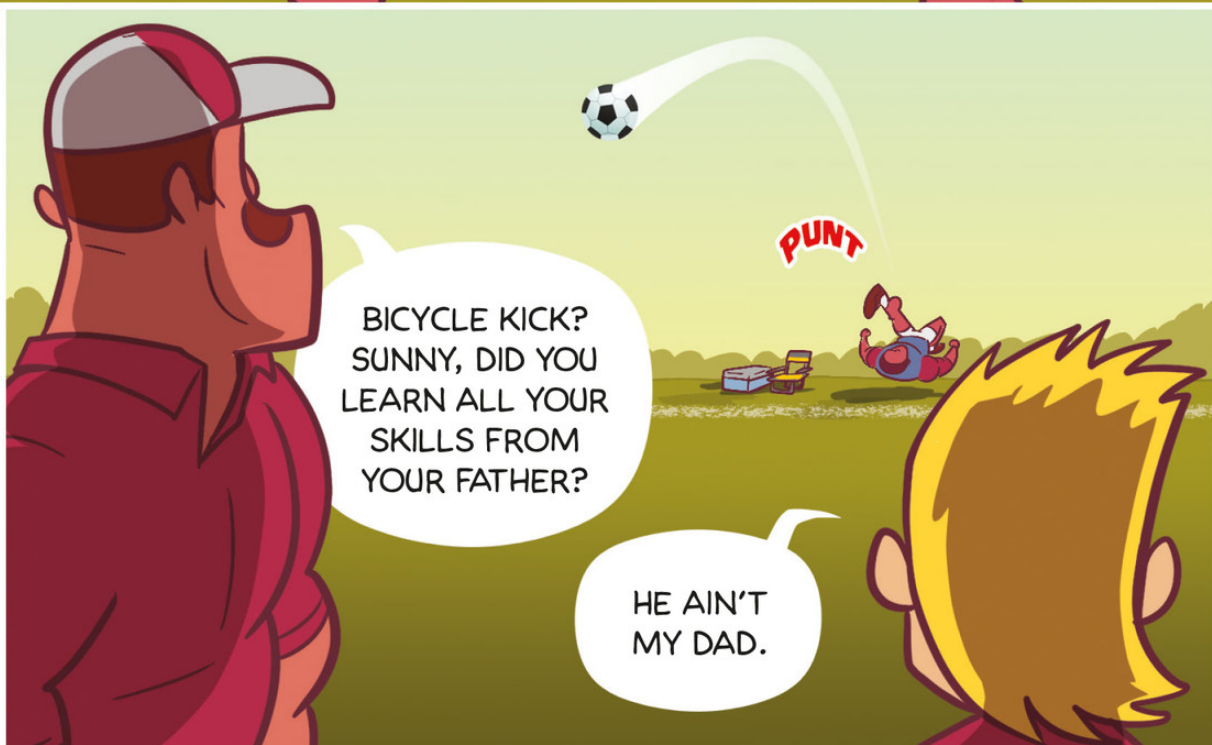


HUDI TAKES THE FIELD WHILE THE OTHER
PLAYERS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS.



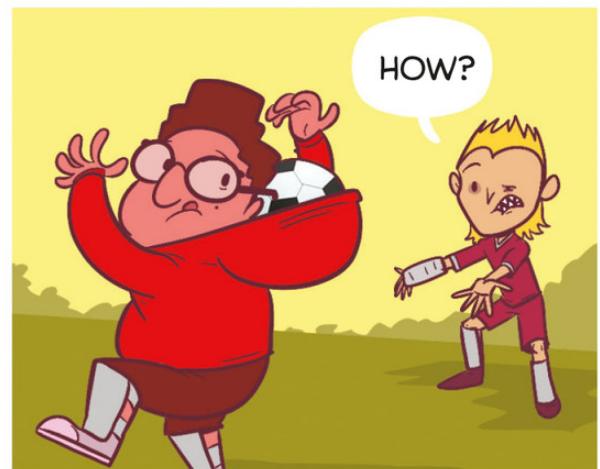
I'M CAUGHT
IN A NET!
CALL
AQUAMAN!



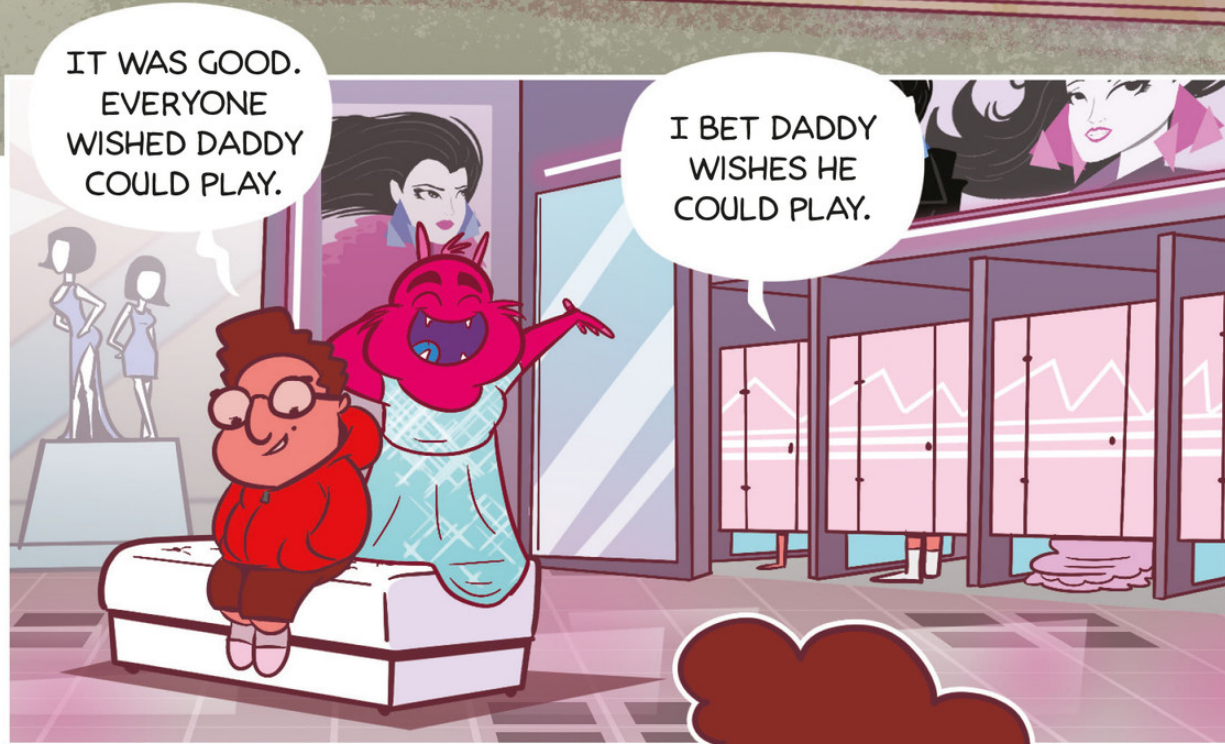


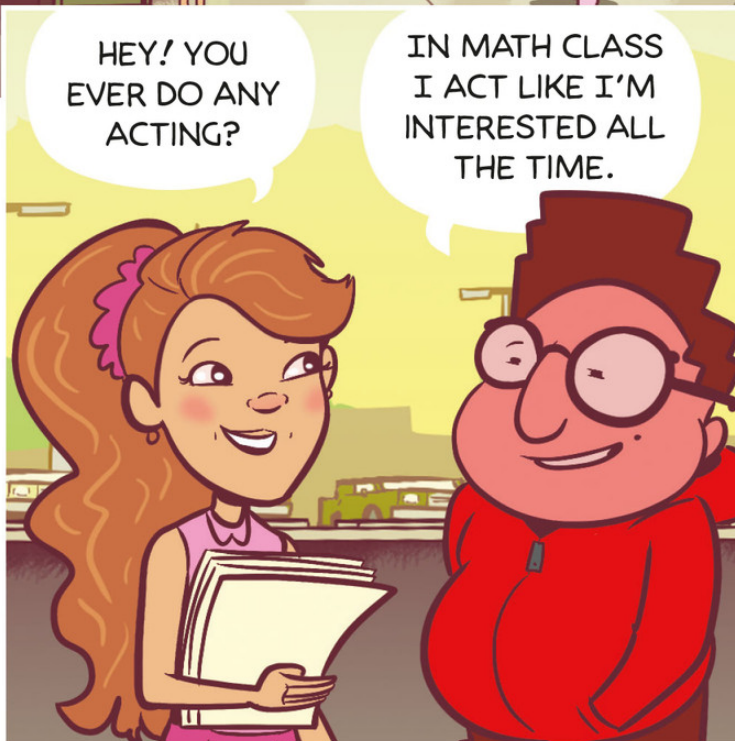
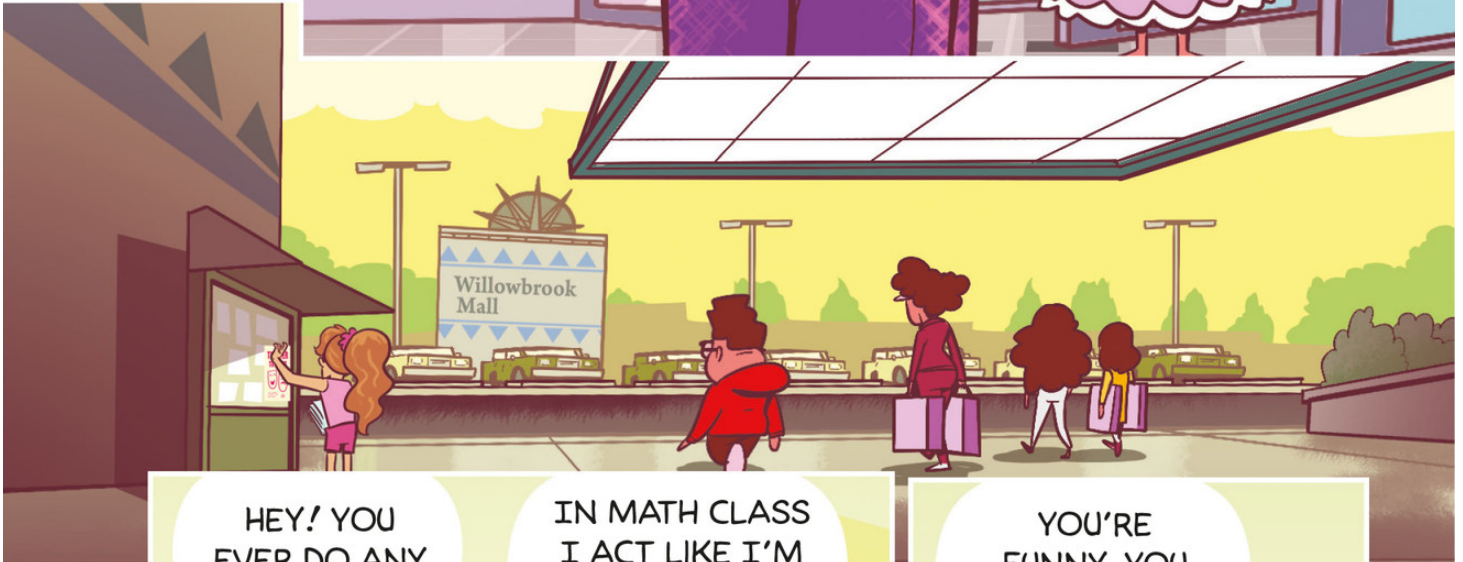


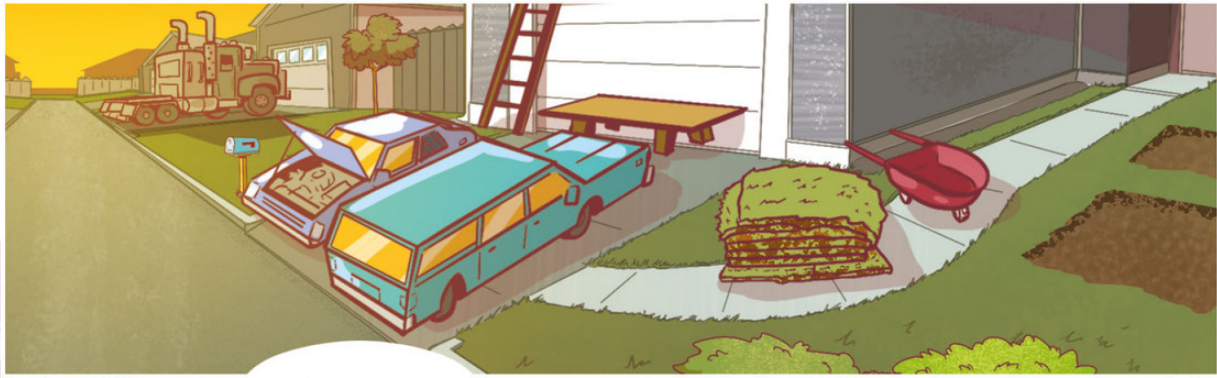
THE HOUSTON CYCLONES LOOK GOOD THIS SEASON. WE'RE KEEPING OUR EYE ON ROOKIE SENSATION HUDI.



TRUE, HE HAS NEVER PLAYED BEFORE, BUT I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT HIM.







SOCCER
POSTERS
NOW?

I GUESS
THIS IS
GOING TO
BECOME A
THING?

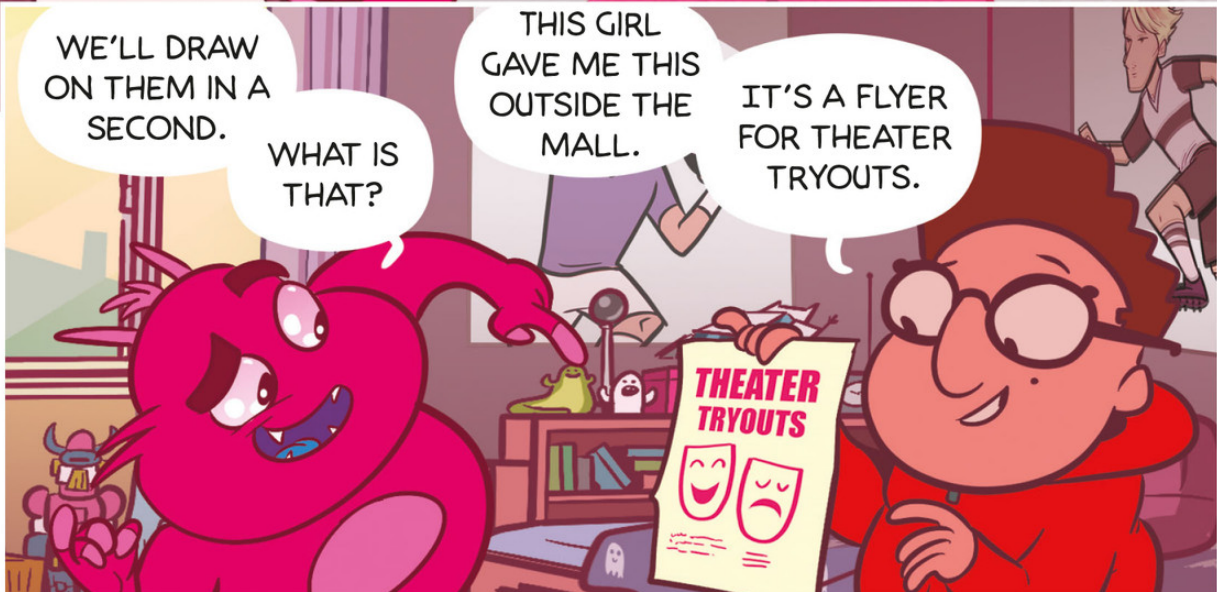


WE'LL DRAW
ON THEM IN A
SECOND.

WHAT IS
THAT?

THIS GIRL
GAVE ME THIS
OUTSIDE THE
MALL.

IT'S A FLYER
FOR THEATER
TRYOUTS.



THEATER!
YOU HAVE TO
DO IT!

YOU KNOW HOW
WE PRETEND TO
FIGHT NINJAS,
BARBARIANS,
AND ROBOTS?

YEAH . . .

THAT'S
WHAT
THEATER
IS!

WHO
ARE YOU
LOOKING AT,
CHUNKY?

I'M
PRETENDING
I'M IN A MOVIE
AND I'M ABOUT
TO SING A
BIG MUSICAL
NUMBER.

OHHHH . . .
PRETENDING . . .

LUCHA ON MONSTER ISLAND



STARRING
**HUDI
&
CHUNKY**

HUDI AND CHUNKY IN



HANUKKAH COPS

8 NIGHTS OF DANGER

HUDI and CHUNKY



PIZZA
BOY
SUMMER

DANGER
GHOST



WITH
HUDI AND CHUNKY



DRAW DRAW DRAW





TIME:

9:23

SCORE

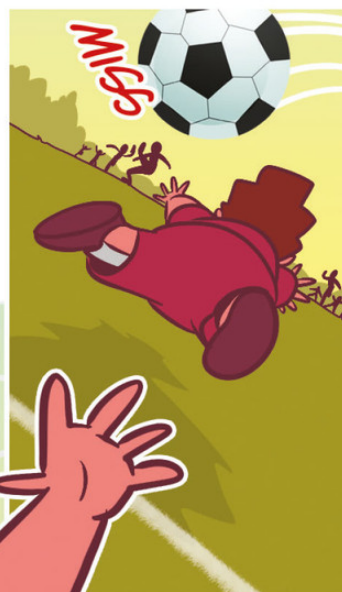
TORNADOS:

2

CYCLONES:

0

C'MON,
HUDI. YOU
CAN DO IT!



TIME:

9:46

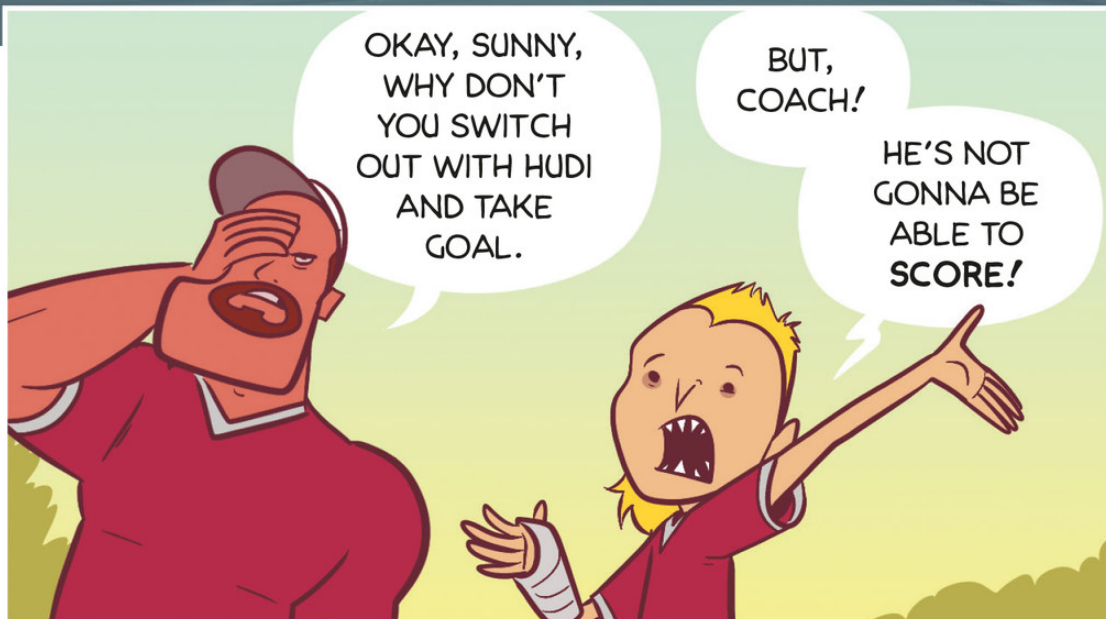
SCORE

TORNADOS:

19

CYCLONES:

0





AND THE CYCLONES
ARE ON THE BOARD.

GOOOOOOOOOOOO AAAAAAALLL

YAY,
HUDI!



WHISTLE

THAT'S
HALFTIME!



WHISTLE



NOW, NOW.
IT'S NOT A
COMPETITION.

IT'S SPORTS!
IT'S
LITERALLY A
COMPETITION!



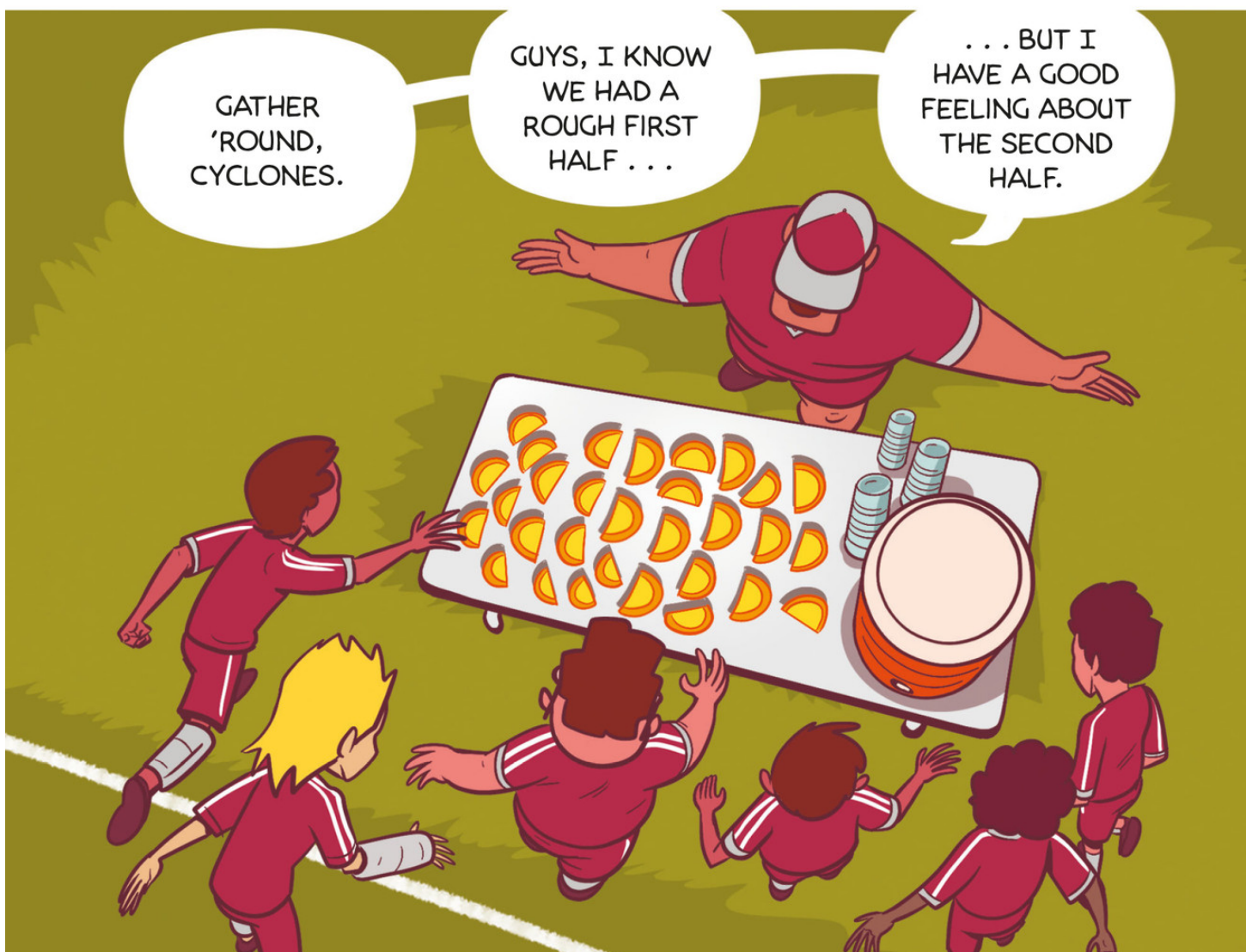
WHEN I PLAYED
BASEBALL, I GOT HIT
BY THE BALL EVERY
TIME I WAS BATTING
. . . I GUESS IT PAYS
OFF IN SOCCER.



GATHER
'ROUND,
CYCLONES.

GUYS, I KNOW
WE HAD A
ROUGH FIRST
HALF . . .

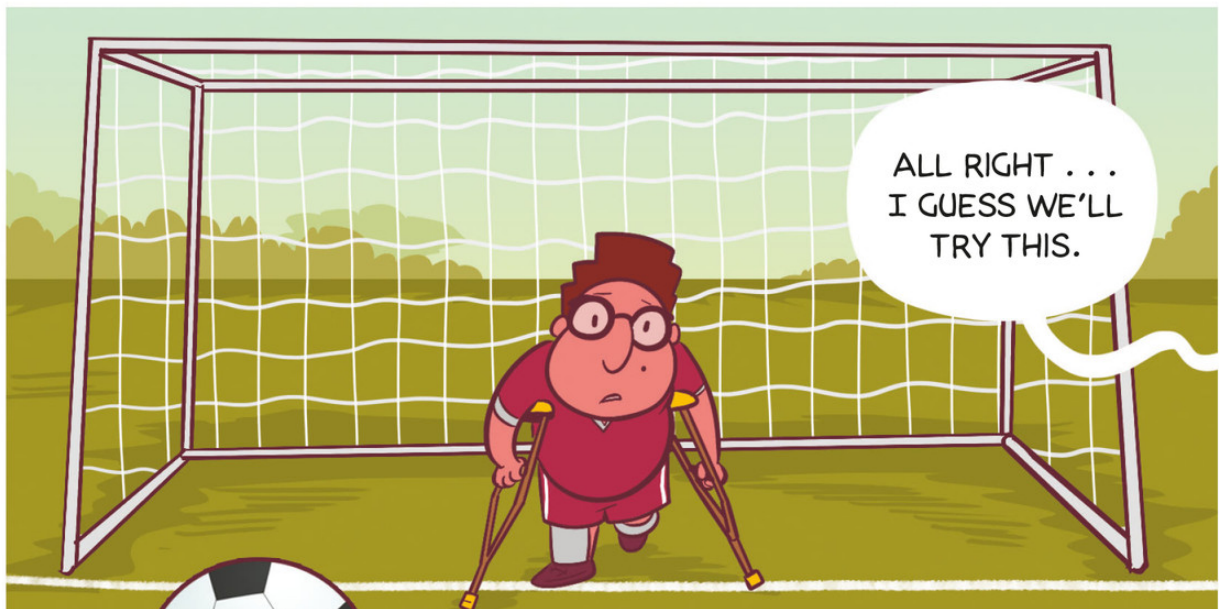
. . . BUT I
HAVE A GOOD
FEELING ABOUT
THE SECOND
HALF.

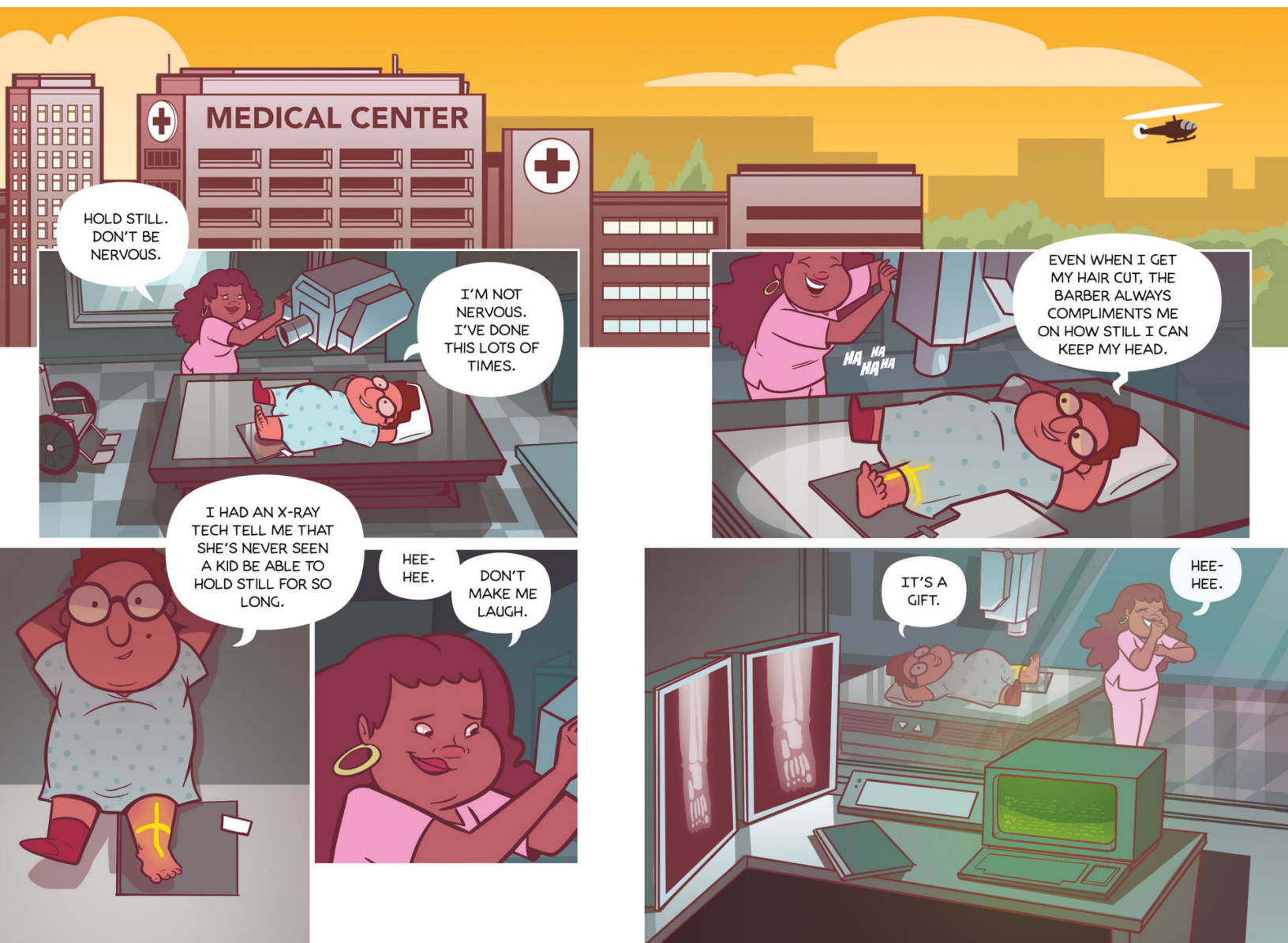




IN ALL MY YEARS OF SPORTSCASTING, I HAVE NEVER SEEN A PLAYER GET INJURED DURING HALFTIME SNACKS. TRULY . . . TRULY UNPRECEDENTED.







HOLD STILL.
DON'T BE
NERVOUS.

I'M NOT
NERVOUS.
I'VE DONE
THIS LOTS OF
TIMES.

I HAD AN X-RAY
TECH TELL ME THAT
SHE'S NEVER SEEN
A KID BE ABLE TO
HOLD STILL FOR SO
LONG.

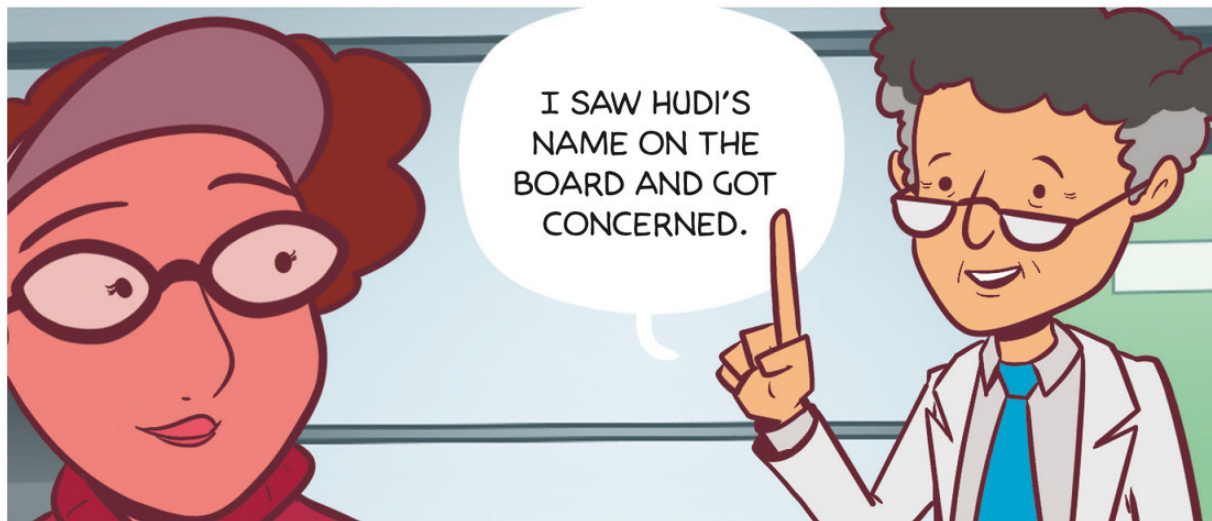
HEE-
HEE.

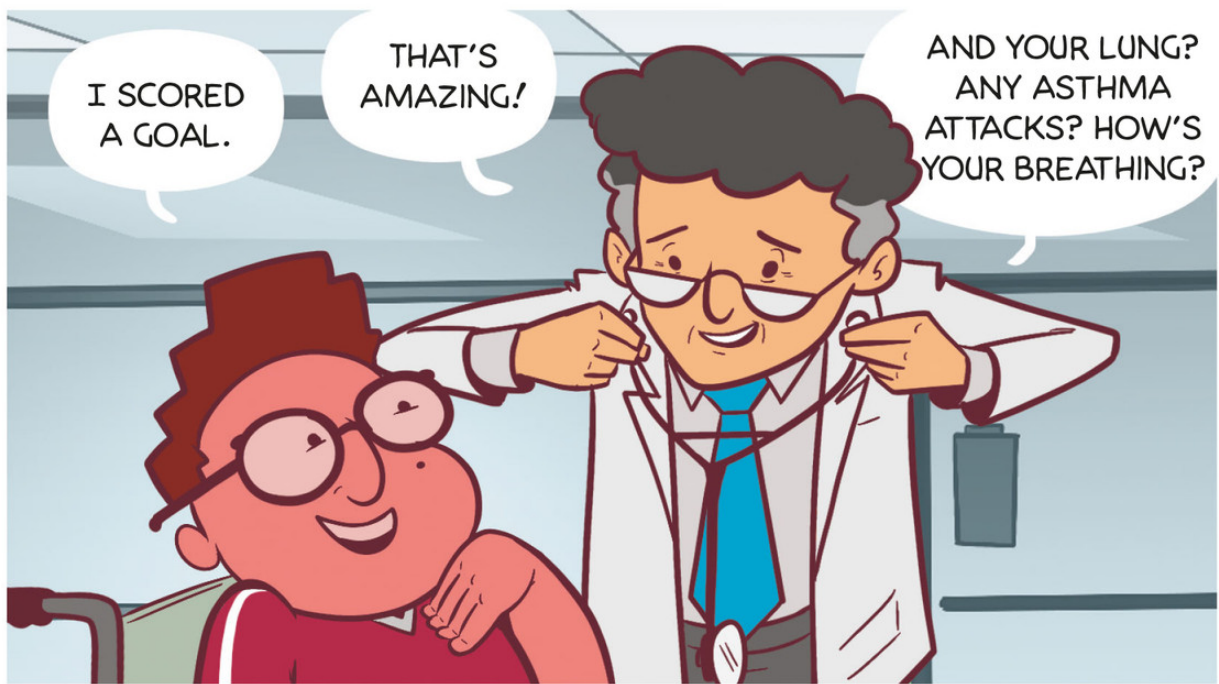
DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH.

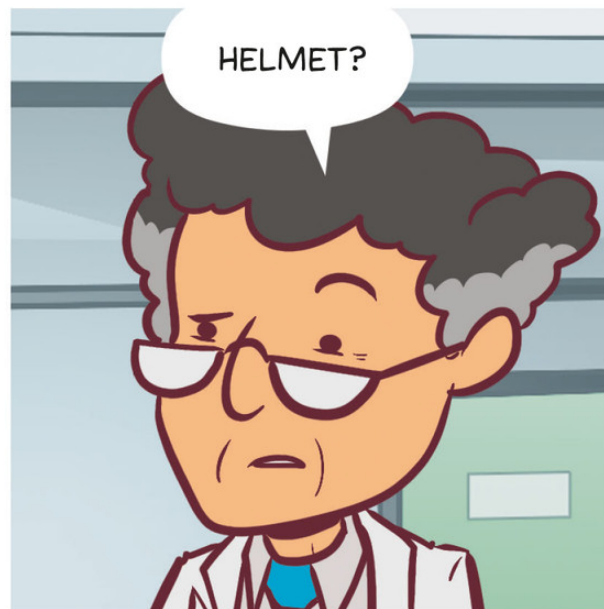
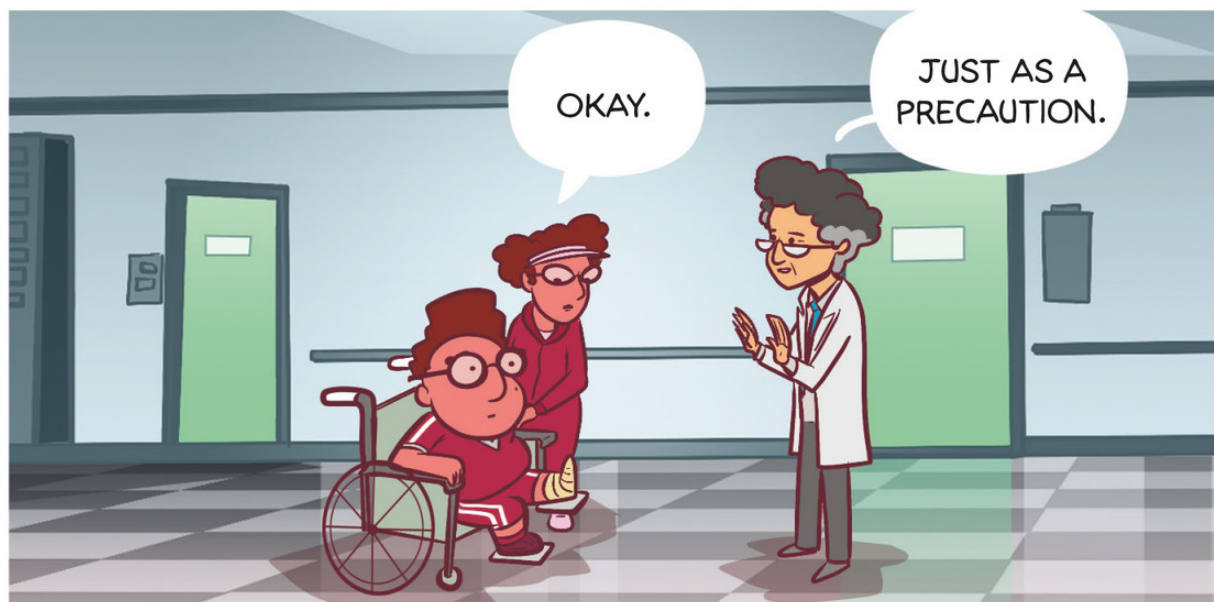
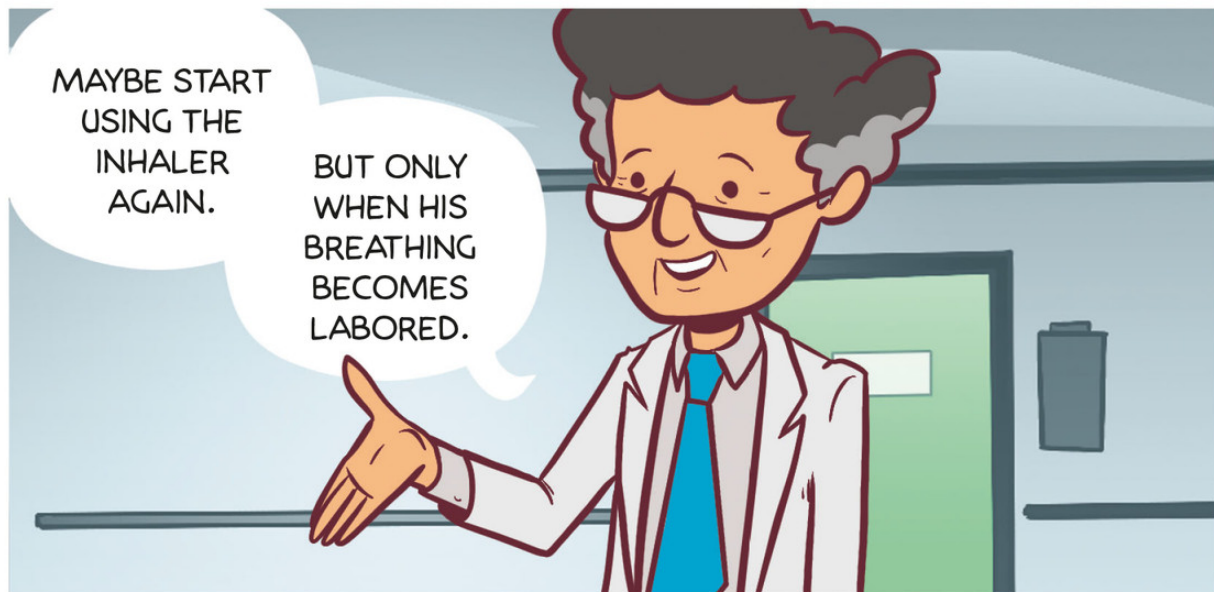
EVEN WHEN I GET
MY HAIR CUT, THE
BARBER ALWAYS
COMPLIMENTS ME
ON HOW STILL I CAN
KEEP MY HEAD.

IT'S A
GIFT.

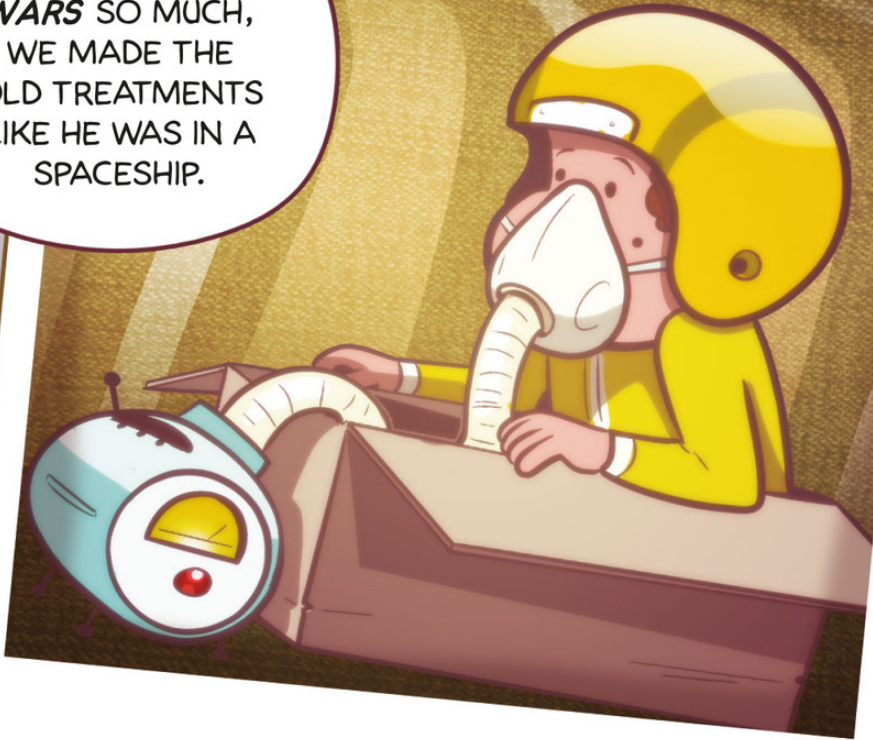
HEE-
HEE.







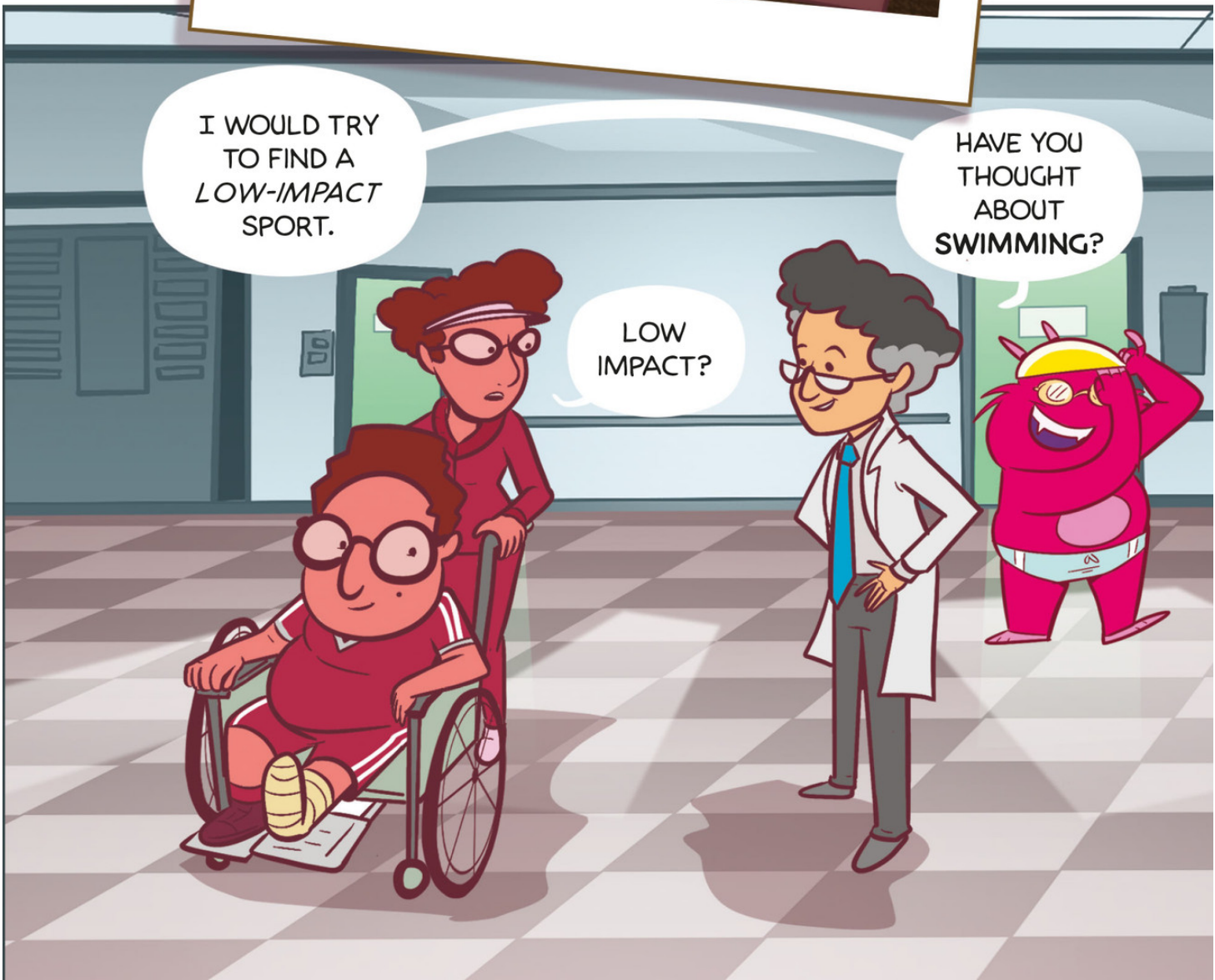
HE LIKES **STAR WARS** SO MUCH, WE MADE THE OLD TREATMENTS LIKE HE WAS IN A SPACESHIP.



I WOULD TRY TO FIND A **LOW-IMPACT** SPORT.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT **SWIMMING**?

LOW IMPACT?



POSTGAME WRAP-UP



ANOTHER
FAILED
ATTEMPT AT
SPORTS, HOW
DOES THAT
MAKE YOU
FEEL?

WHAT YOU SEE AS
A FAILURE, I SEE
AS A **PERFECT**
RECORD. ONE
SHOT, ONE GOAL.



ARE YOU
GOING TO
USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO PURSUE
THEATER?

AS LONG AS
I DON'T HAVE
TO RUN.

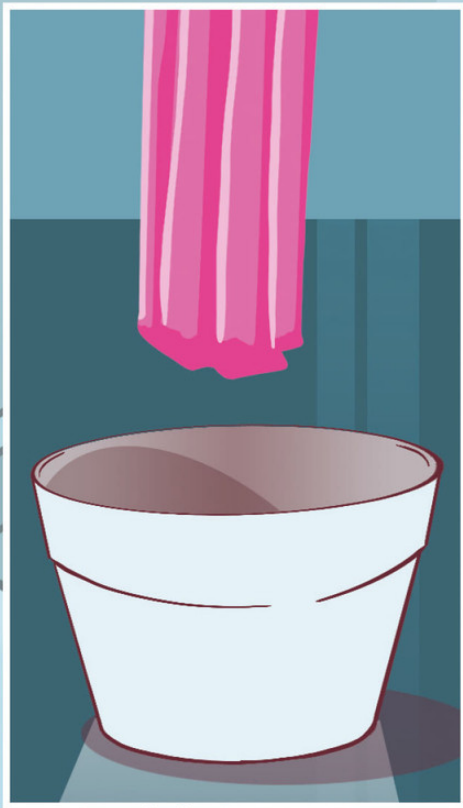




CHAPTER FOUR

Swimming

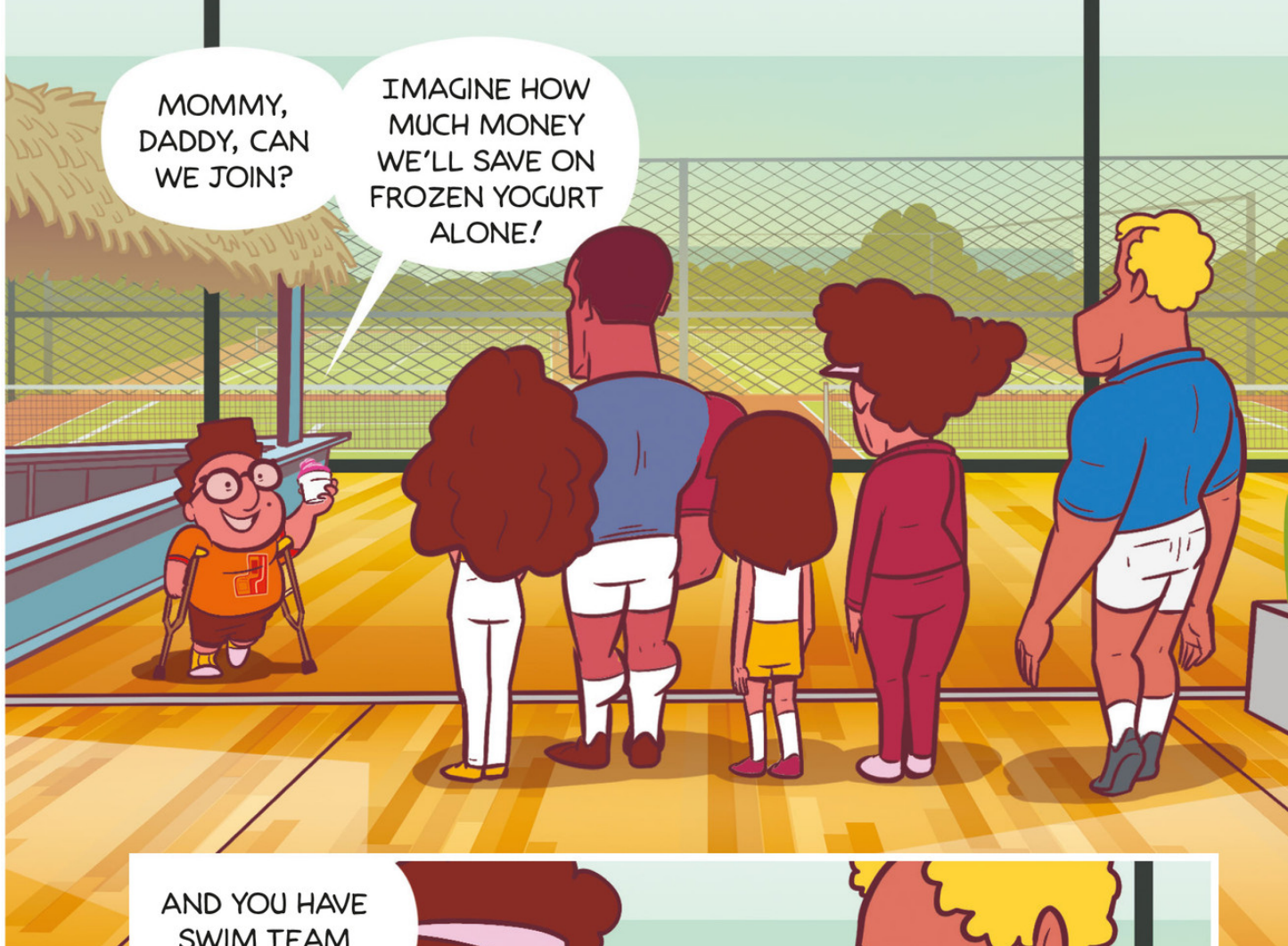




AND THE FROYO IS FREE?

YUP.





AND YOU HAVE
SWIM TEAM
STARTING SOON?

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE HAVE
TEAMS FOR
EVERY SKILL
LEVEL.

HUDI IS GOING
TO NEED ONE
WITH ZERO
SKILL LEVEL.

HA
HA.



S

LOOKS LIKE HUDI IS GOING TO TRY
OUT FOR THE SWIM TEAM!

FINALLY, A
TEAM WITH
SOME GIRLS.

HEY! WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR FOOT?

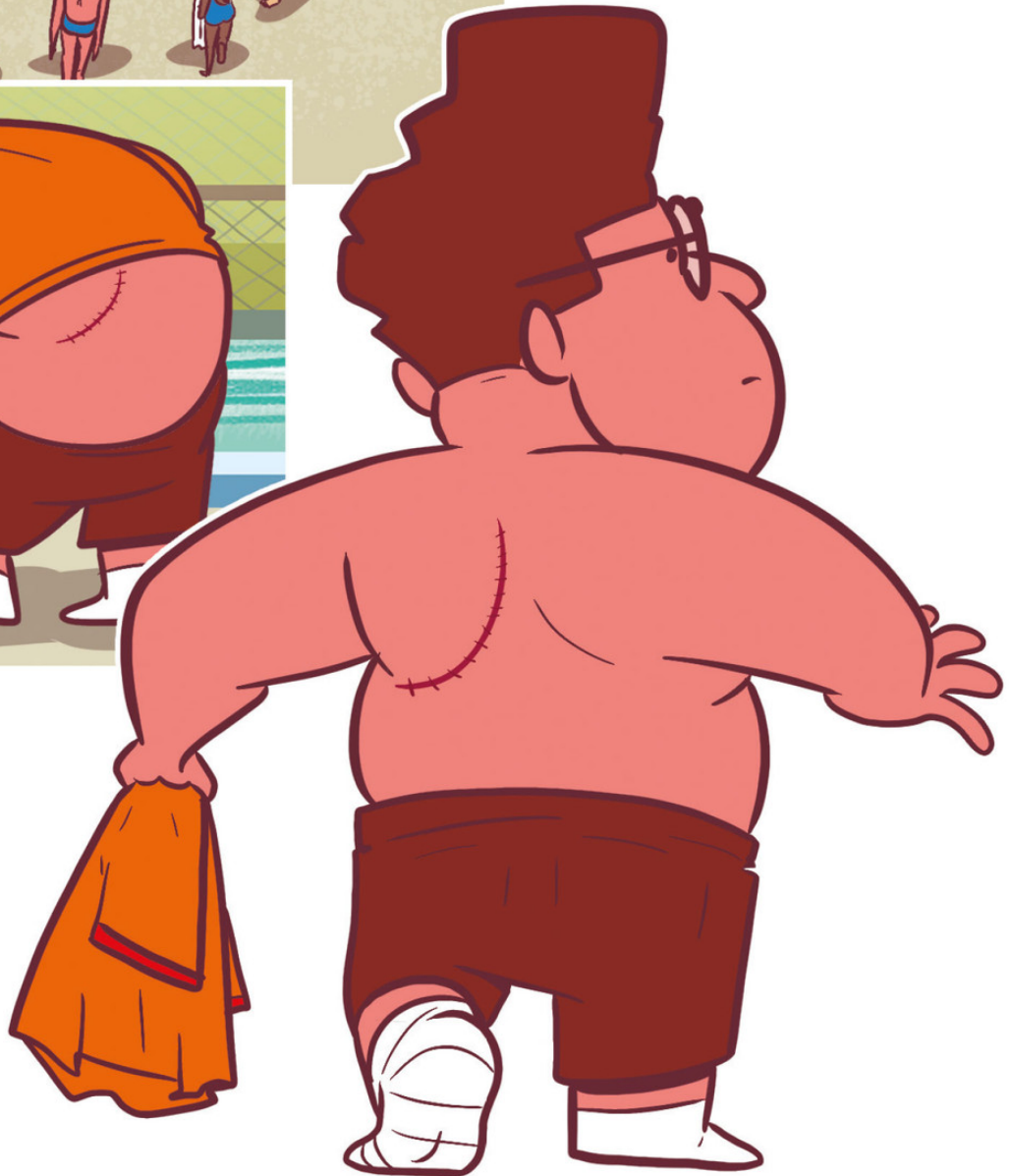
IT WAS A
RUNNING GAG
THAT I TOOK
TOO FAR.

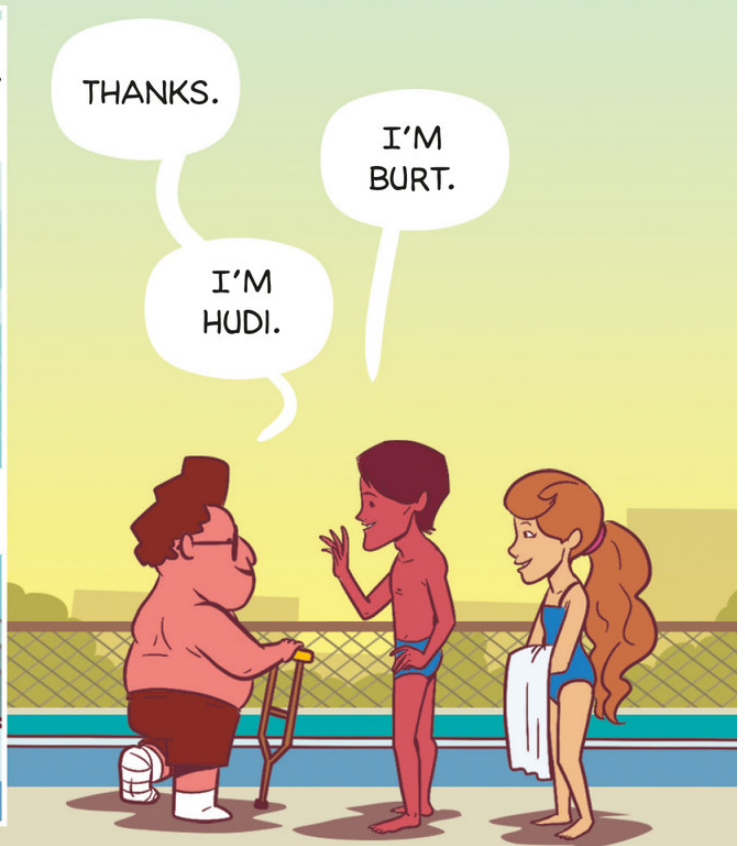
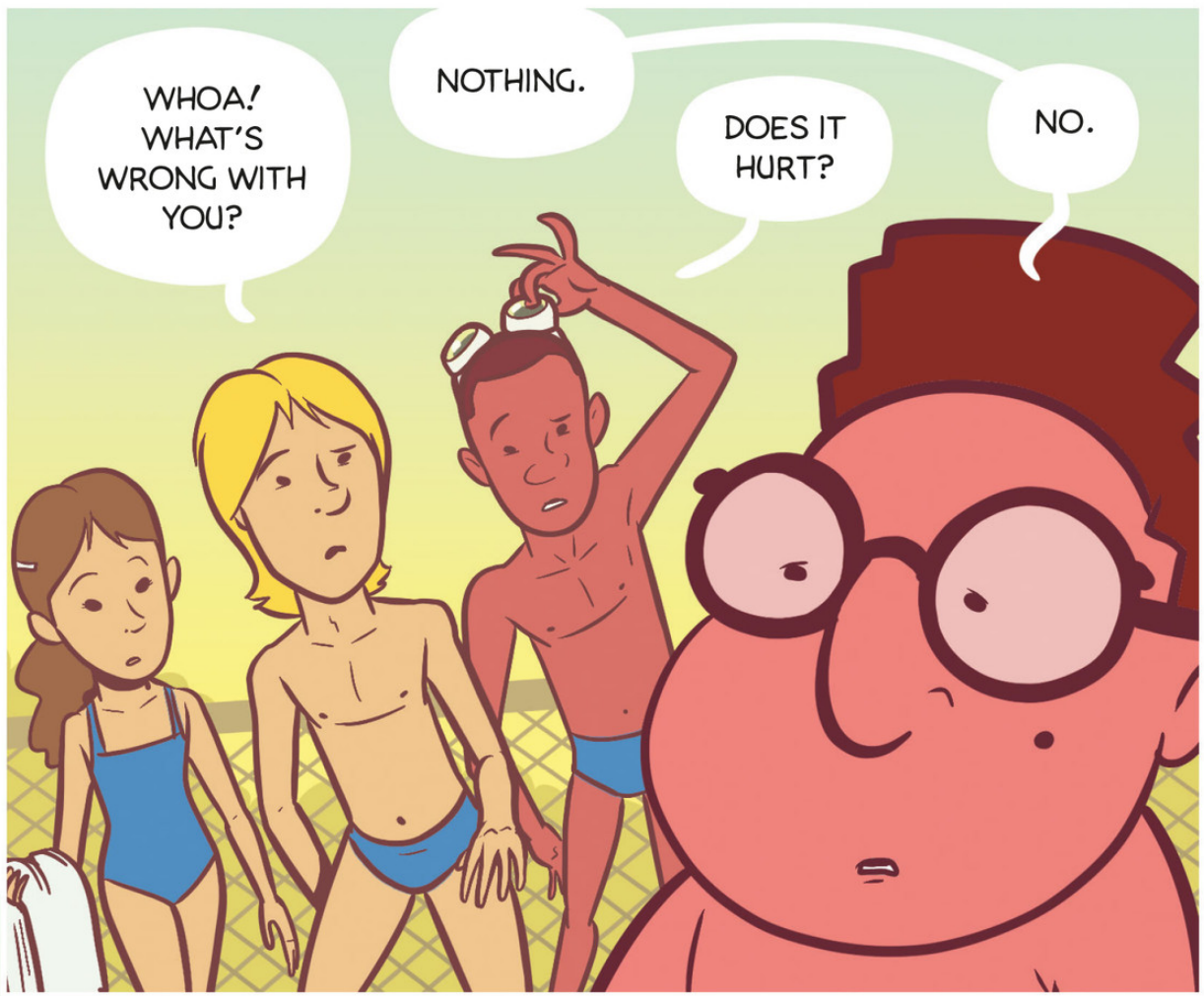
HEE-
HEE-HEE

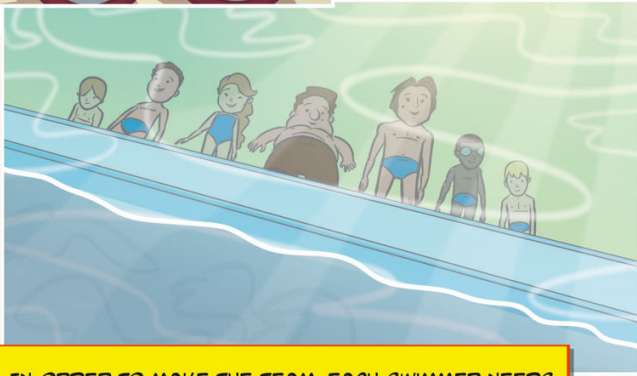
HEY, BIG MAN.
YOU CAN'T WEAR
THAT SHIRT IN
THE POOL.



UM.







S

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE TEAM, EACH SWIMMER NEEDS TO PASS A BASIC WATER SAFETY TEST.

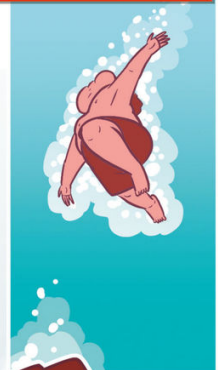


I WANNA
SEE HOW MY
FISHIES TREAD
WATER!



S

HUDI MAY NOT BE FAST ON LAND,
BUT HE'S NOT TERRIBLE IN THE
WATER.

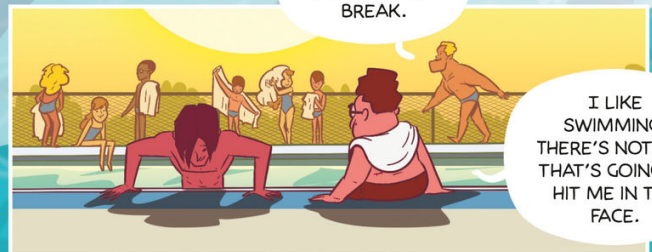
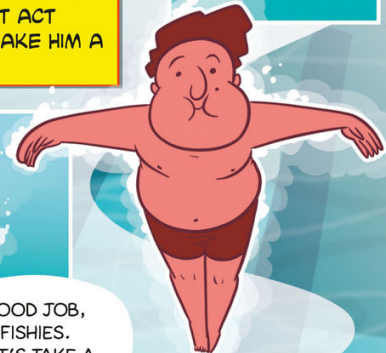


S

HIS EXTREMELY FLAT FEET ACT
ALMOST AS FINS. THEY MAKE HIM A
DECENT SWIMMER.



GOOD JOB,
FISHIES.
LET'S TAKE A
BREAK.



I LIKE
SWIMMING.
THERE'S NOTHING
THAT'S GOING TO
HIT ME IN THE
FACE.



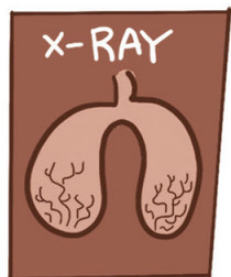
I HAD A REALLY BAD INFECTION IN MY LUNG AS A KID.

IT WAS A HARDENING OF THE BRONCHI.

I WAS ALWAYS SICK WITH RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS.

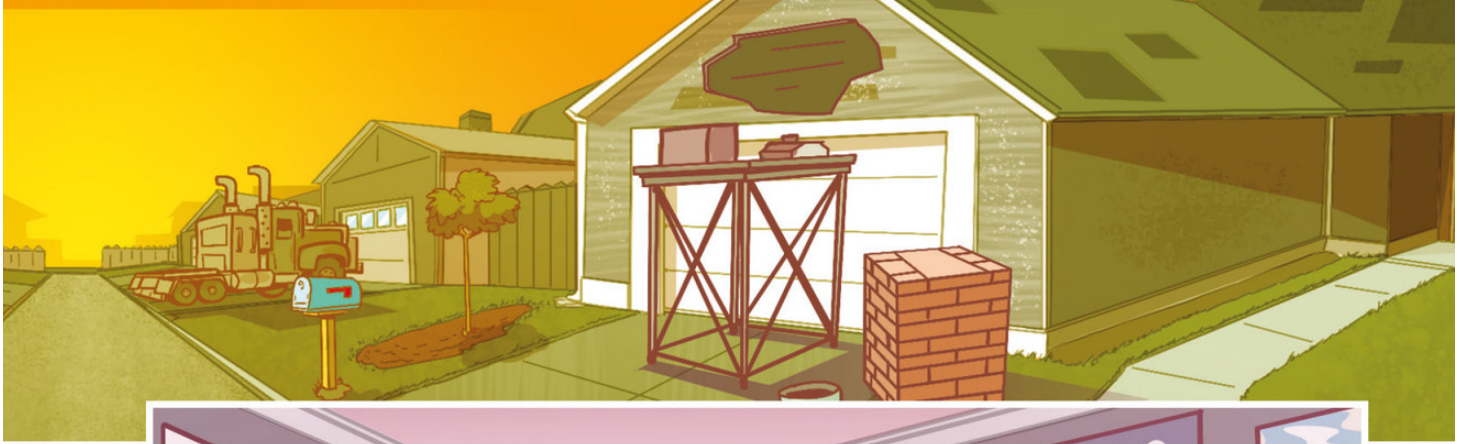
SO THEY DECIDED TO CHOP IT OUT.

I GUESS IT WAS PRETTY SCARY FOR MY PARENTS.

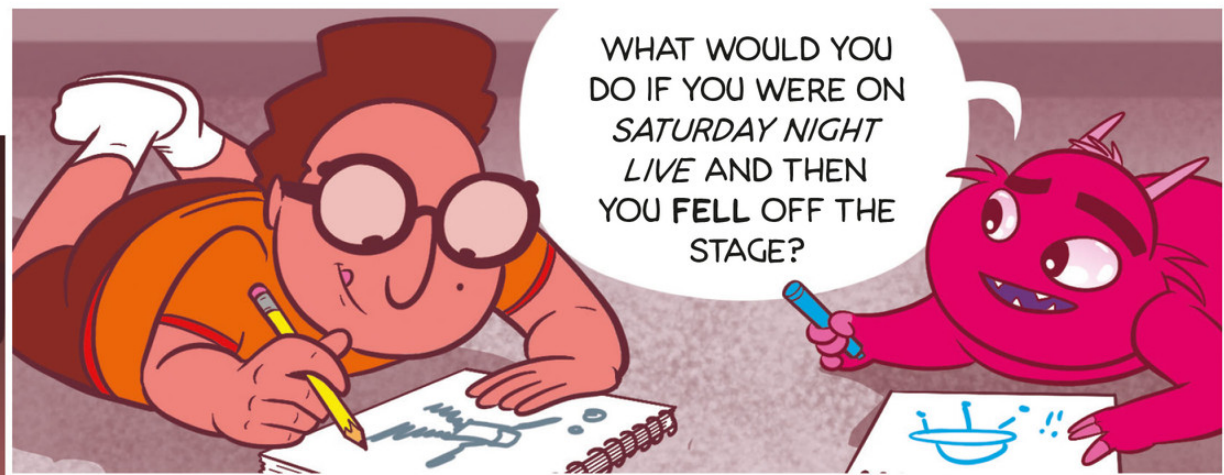


ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE YOUR BACKSTROKE, FISHIES!





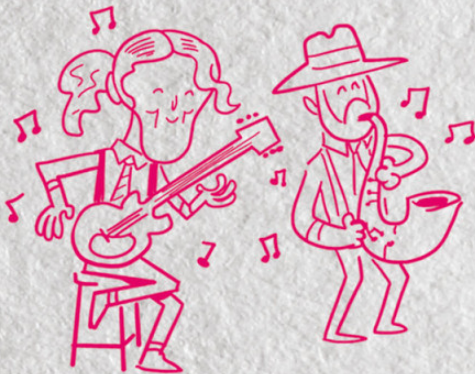
DRAW DRAW DRAW





"IF SOMETHING EMBARRASSING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENS, LIVE ON TV AND IN FRONT OF A BIG AUDIENCE . . ."

"THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO PRETEND LIKE YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE AND START DOING A CRAZY DANCE UNTIL THE BAND STARTS PLAYING ALONG WITH YOU."



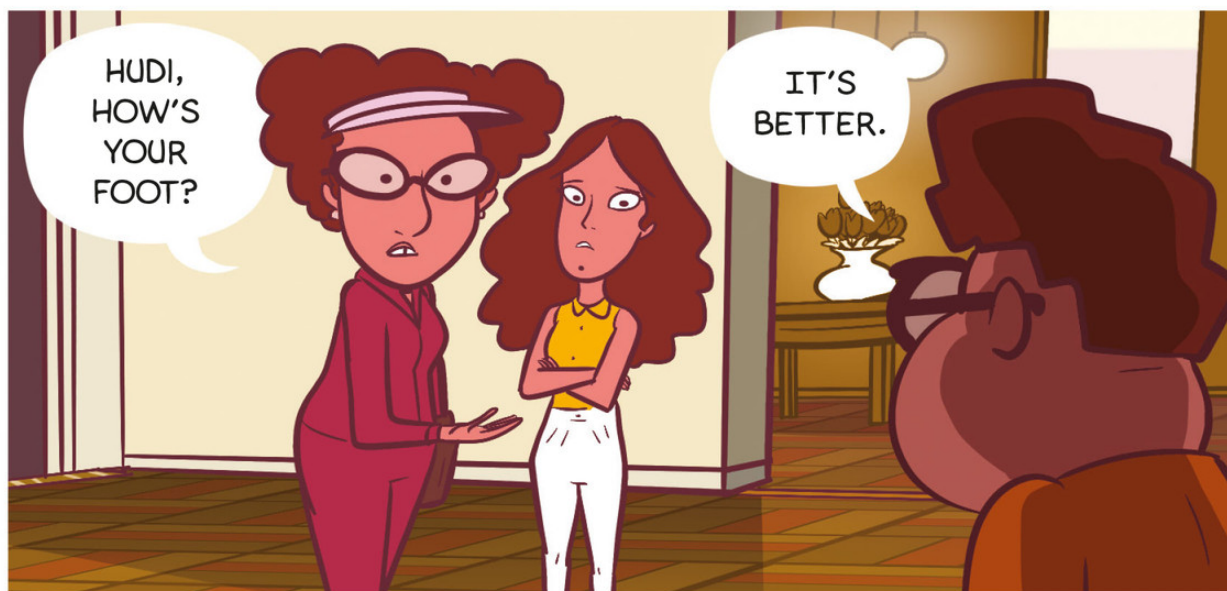
HAHAHAHA



EMERGENCY CRAZY DANCE. SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

ONCE YOUR FOOT HEALS, WE SHOULD PRACTICE PRATFALLS.







SO SHOULD
I TELL HIS
MOTHER
YOU'LL BE
THERE?





YOU CAN
CALL ME TO
PICK YOU UP
ANYTIME . . .
BUT DON'T.



OKAY . . .

**BING
BONG**

OH, HELLO.
THE BOYS ARE
UPSTAIRS.

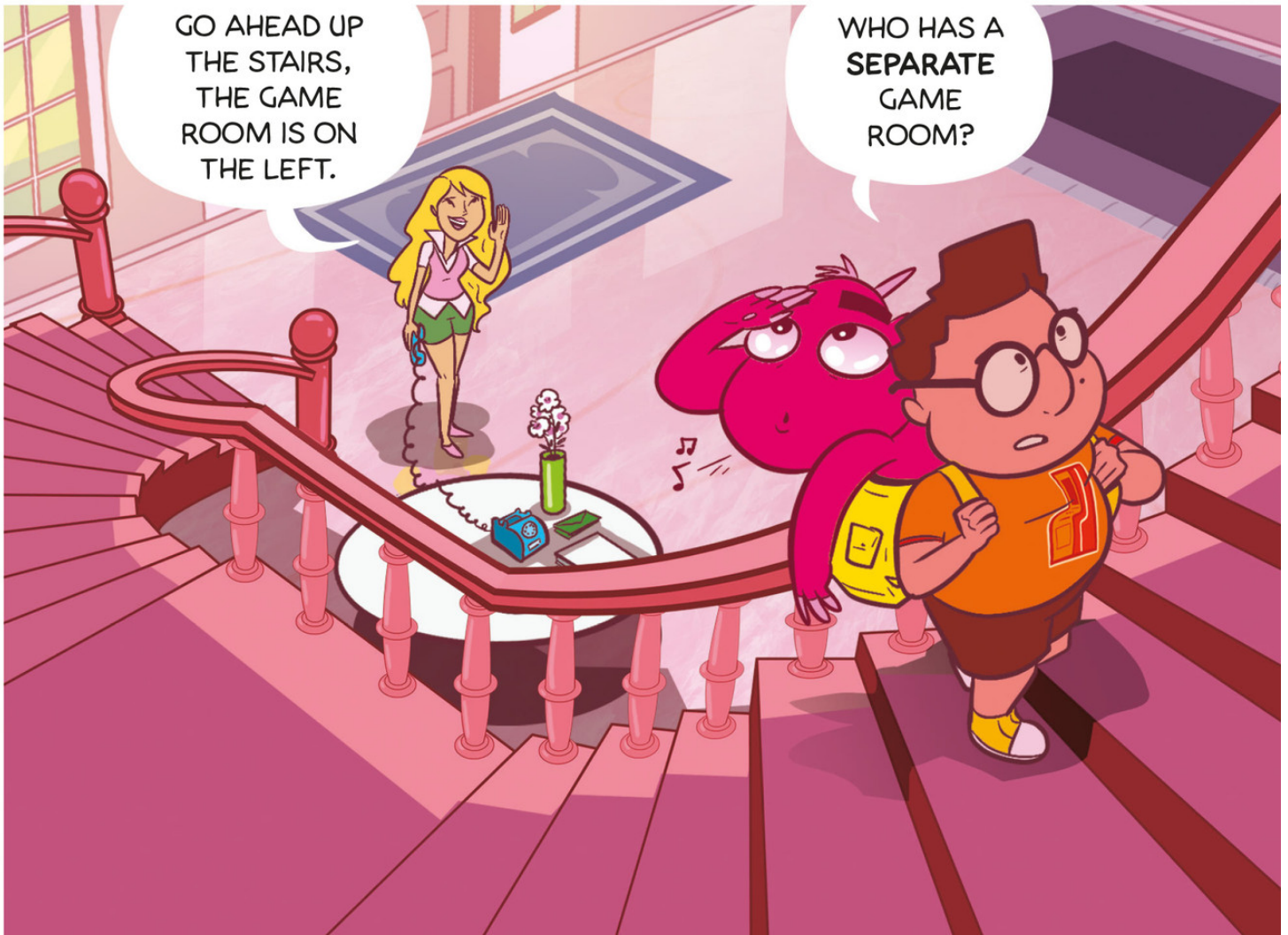
PIZZAS ARE
ON THE WAY.
YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY FOOD
RESTRICTIONS,
DO YOU?

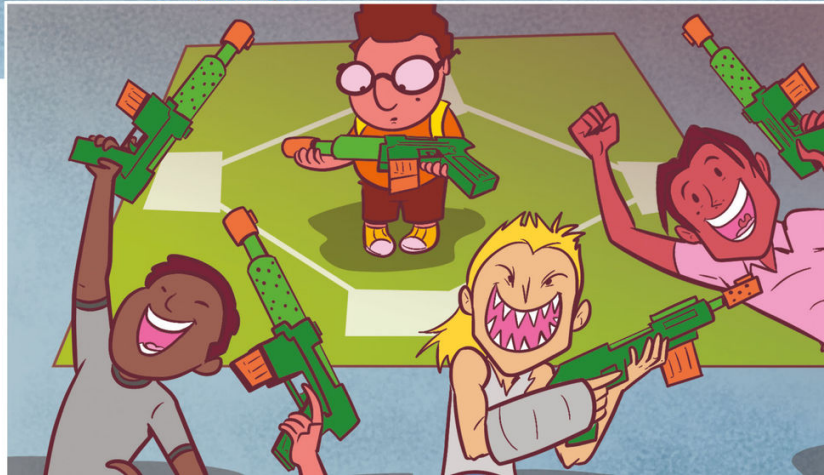
YOU DON'T GET
A PHYSIQUE
LIKE **THIS**
WITH FOOD
RESTRICTIONS.



GO AHEAD UP
THE STAIRS,
THE GAME
ROOM IS ON
THE LEFT.

WHO HAS A
SEPARATE
GAME
ROOM?





RATATATTATTAT



GUNS GUNS GUNS



RATATATTATTAT



GUNS GUNS GUNS

MY DAD
CALLS ME
CHAMP.

MY DAD
CALLS ME
TIGER.

MY DAD
CALLS ME
ACE.

MY DAD
CALLS ME
SPORT.

WHAT DOES
YOUR DAD
CALL YOU?





I'M BEING TOLD THAT MAJECITO MEANS "LITTLE DUMMY" IN SPANISH.

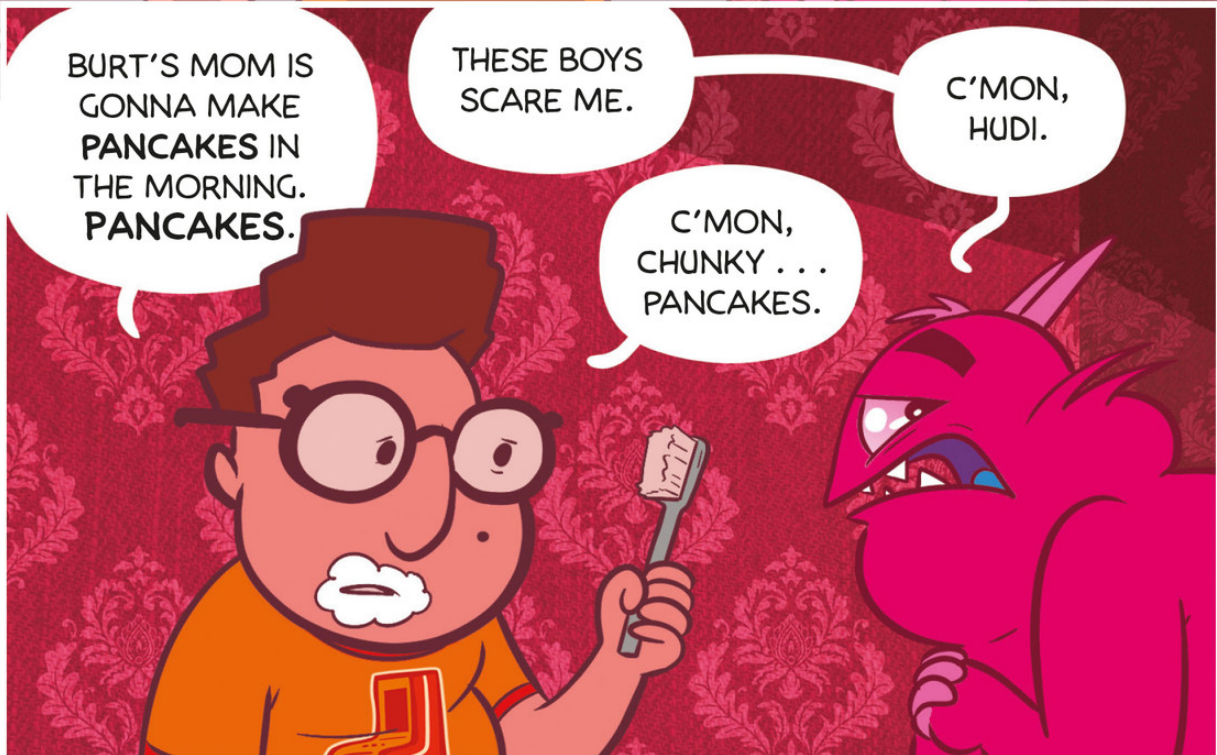


MY DAD
CALLS ME . . .
SHOOTER.

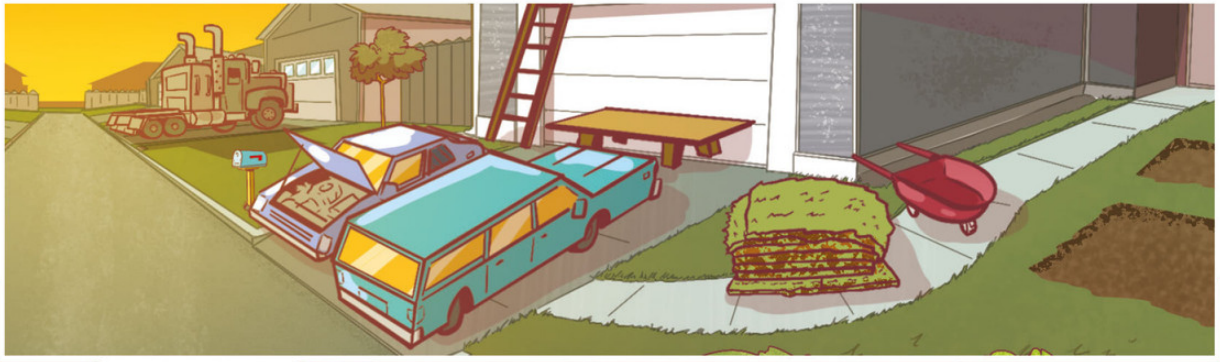


LIGHTS
OUT,
BOYS!

AND BRUSH
YOUR
TEETH!







YOU'VE HAD
THREE WEEKS OF
SWIM PRACTICE
AND YOU HAVEN'T
LOST A POUND.

MAYBE
IT'S WATER
WEIGHT.

THAT'S
NOT
FUNNY.



HEY,
MOMMY,
CAN I GET A
GUN?

WHAT?
NO!



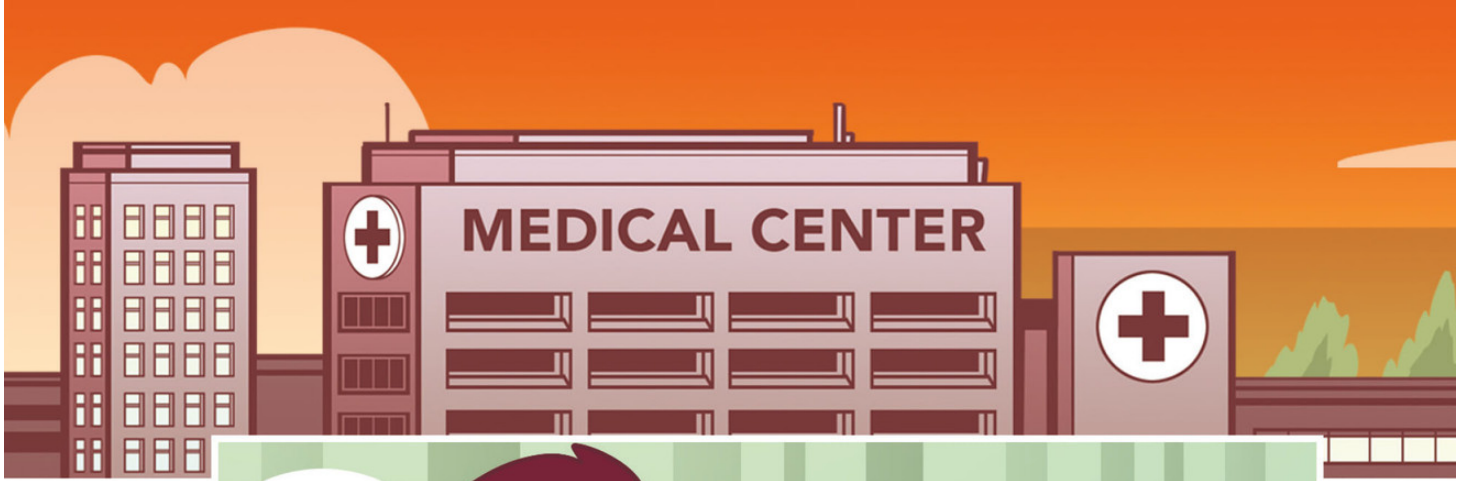


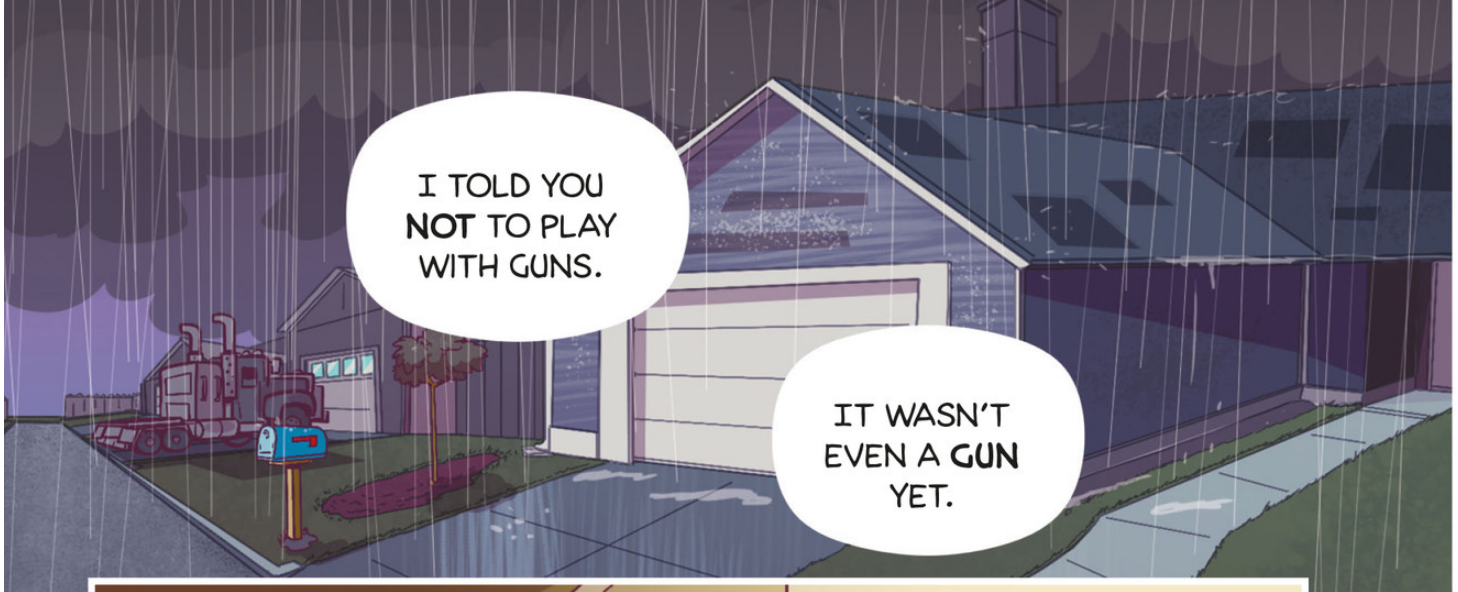




SLICE









POSTGAME WRAP-UP



YOU JUST GOTTA
LEARN FROM YOUR
LOSSES. NOT
EVERY GAME IS
GONNA BE A WIN.

BUT . . . LIKE . . . LIFE
WOULD BE BORING IF
YOU NEVER LOST.





CHAPTER FIVE

Tennis





THEN
TOMORROW.





THINGS ARE TENSE BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMMATES. EVER SINCE THE SLEEPOVER.



THE GREATEST OF SPORTS DUOS GET IN ROUGH PATCHES EVERY NOW AND THEN.



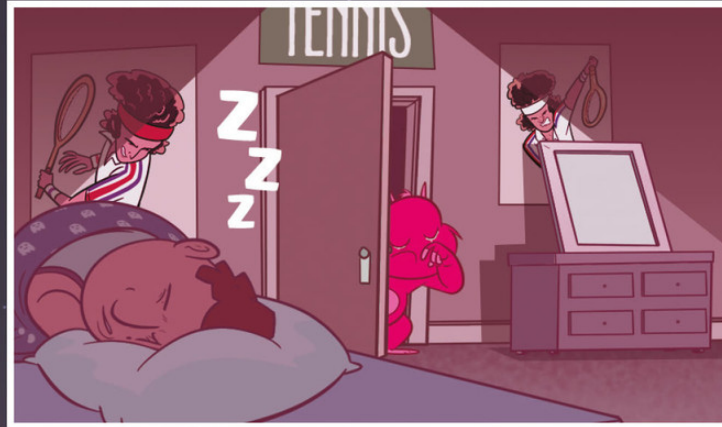


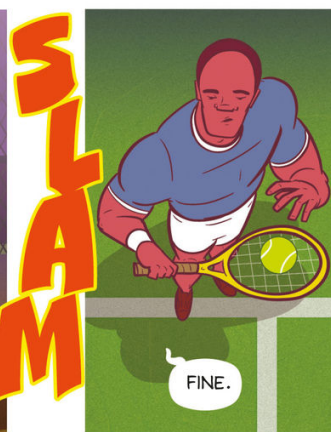
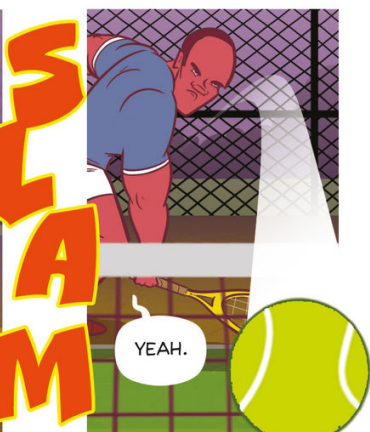
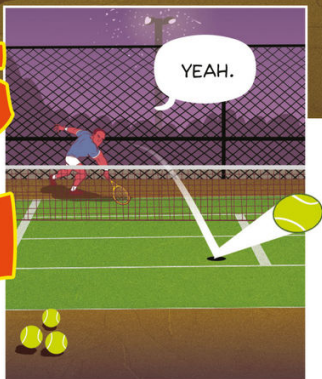
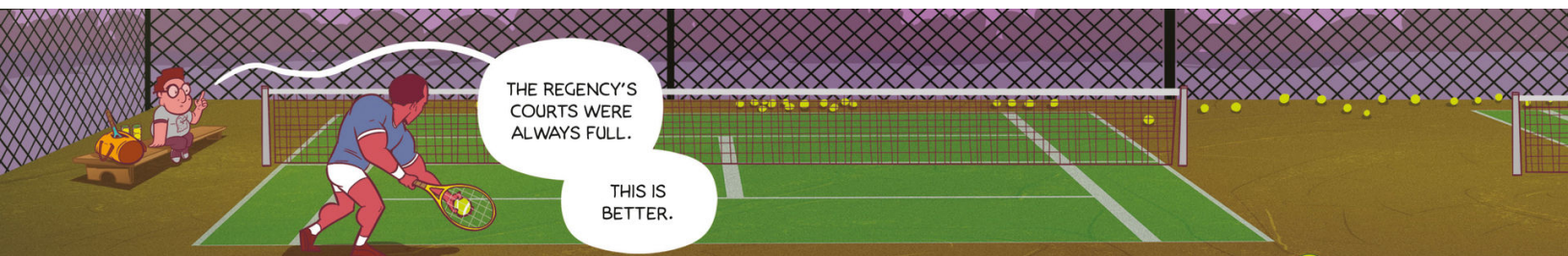


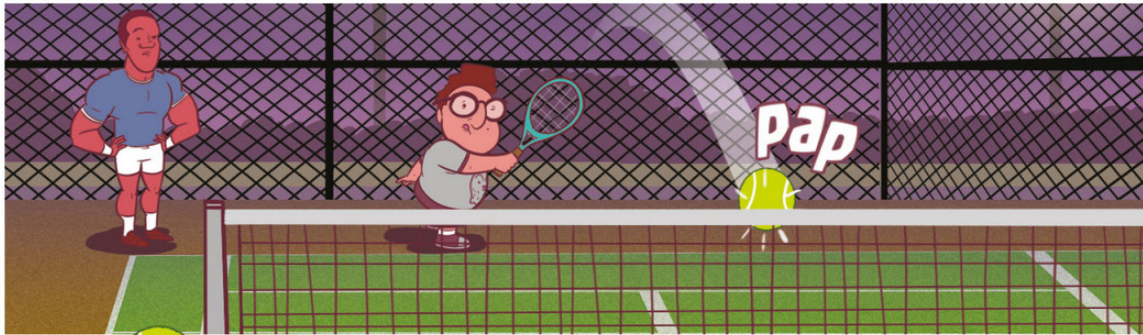
Noooooo



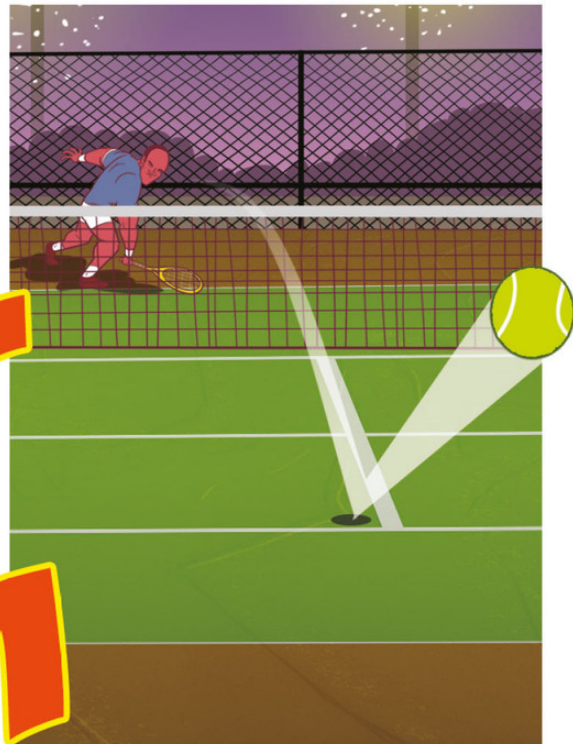






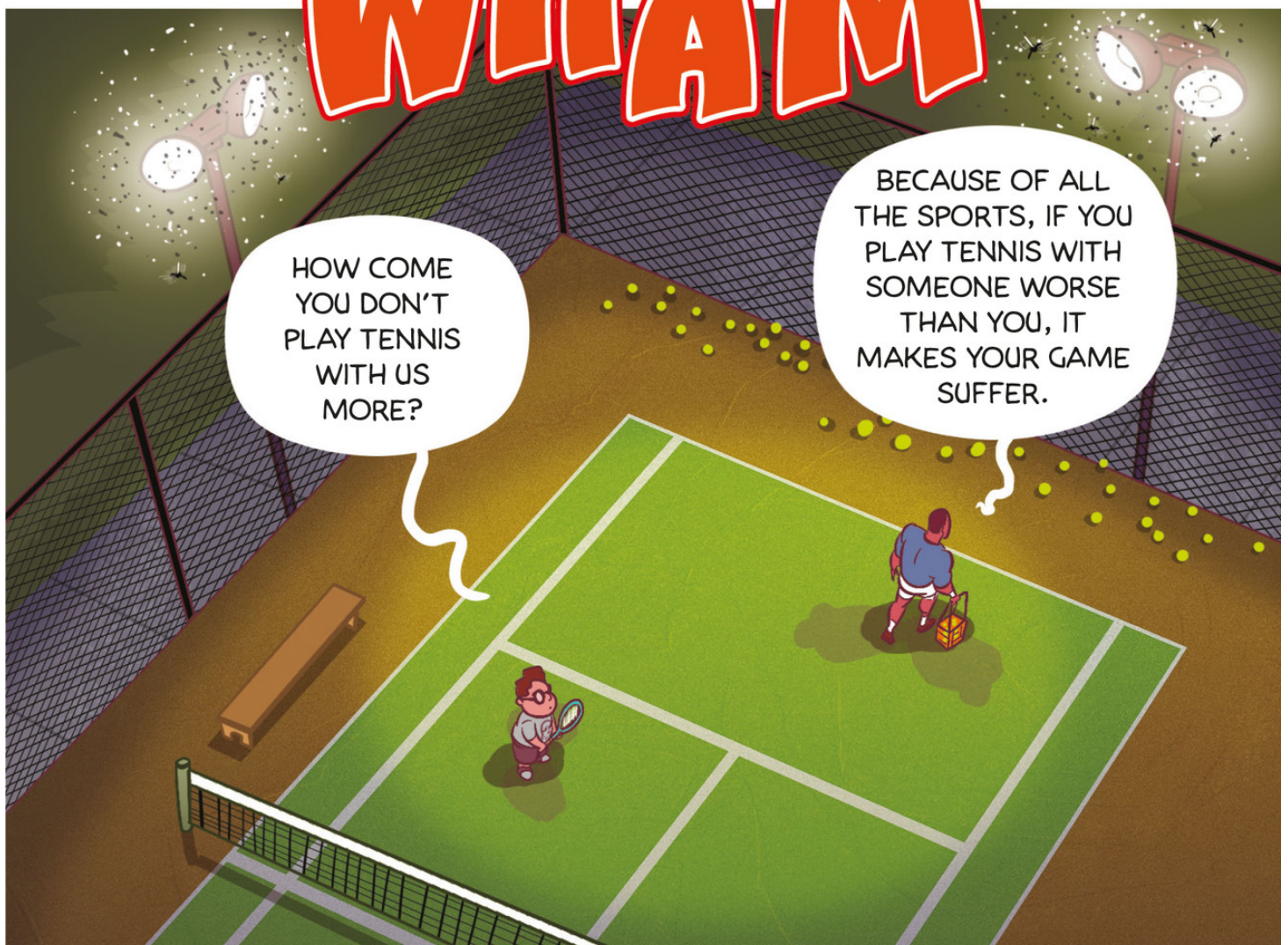


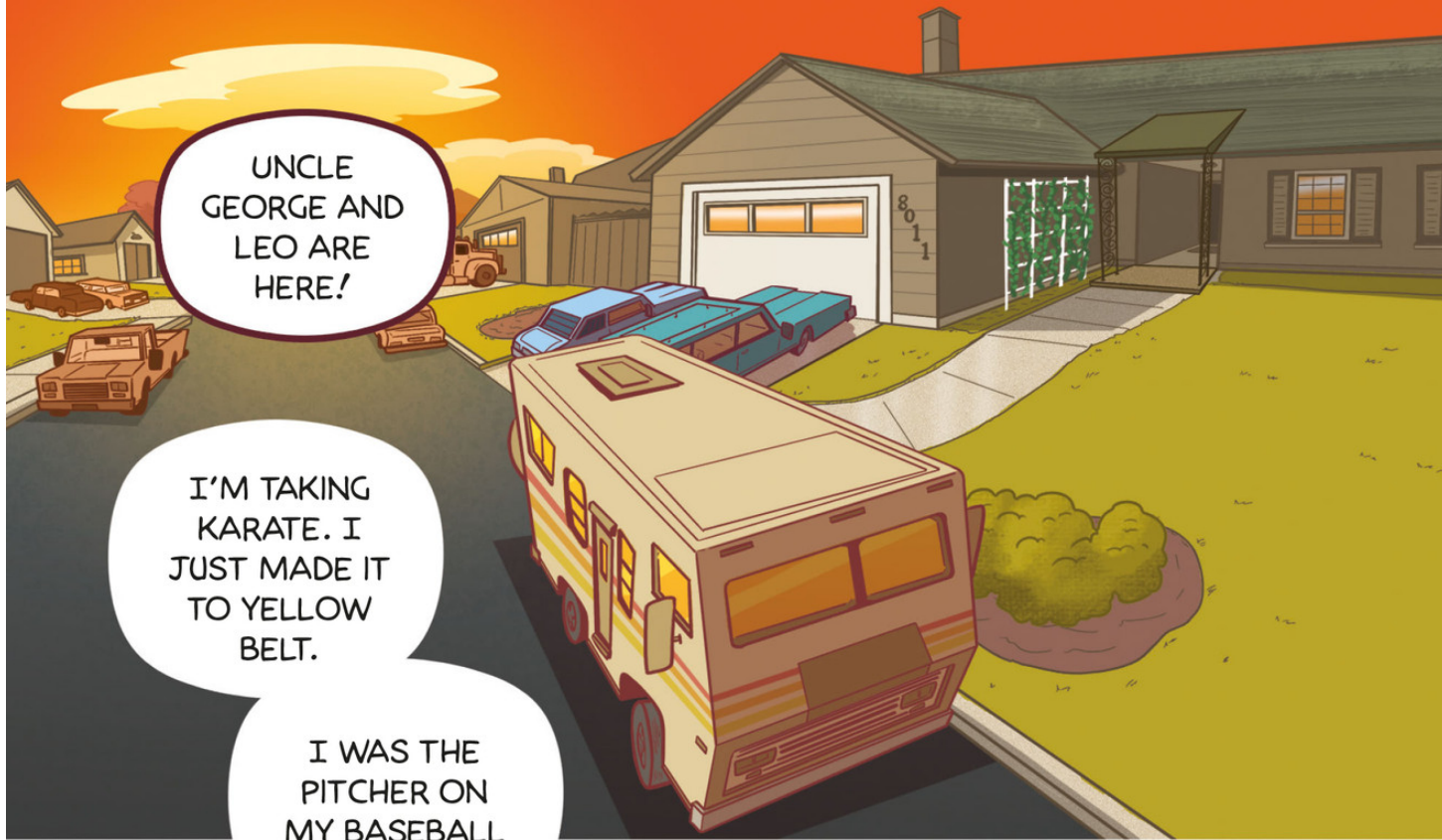
SLAM





WHAM





UNCLE
GEORGE AND
LEO ARE
HERE!

I'M TAKING
KARATE. I
JUST MADE IT
TO YELLOW
BELT.

I WAS THE
PITCHER ON
MY BASEBALL
TEAM.



IN THE FALL
I'M GOING TO
START PLAYING
FOOTBALL.



DID YOU GO SKIING THIS WINTER?

OH, YEAH, WYNNIE. WE WENT EVERY WEEKEND.

I GO DOWN THE DOUBLE BLACK DIAMOND NOW.

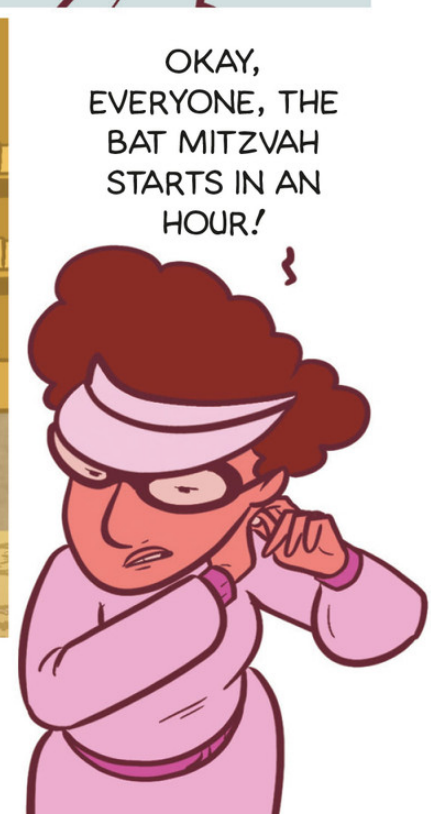
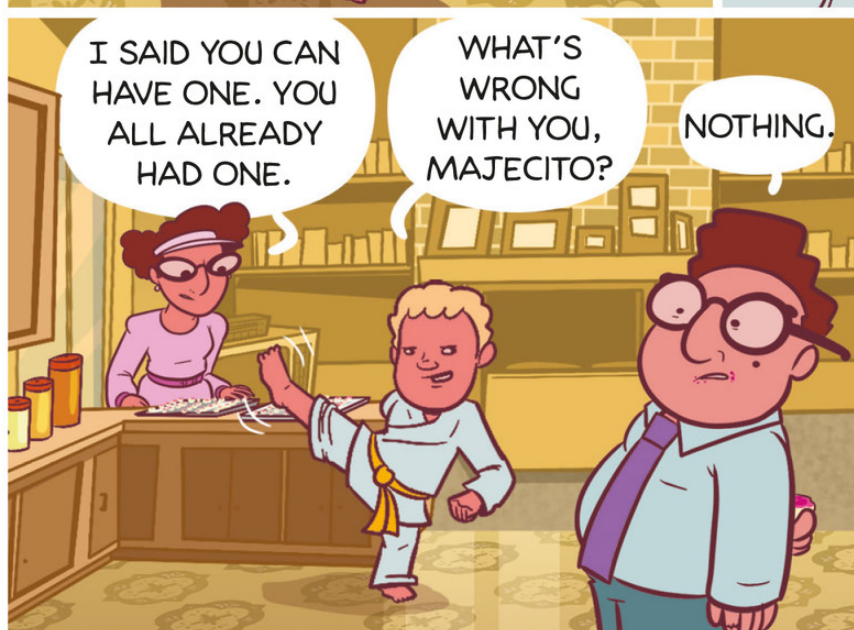
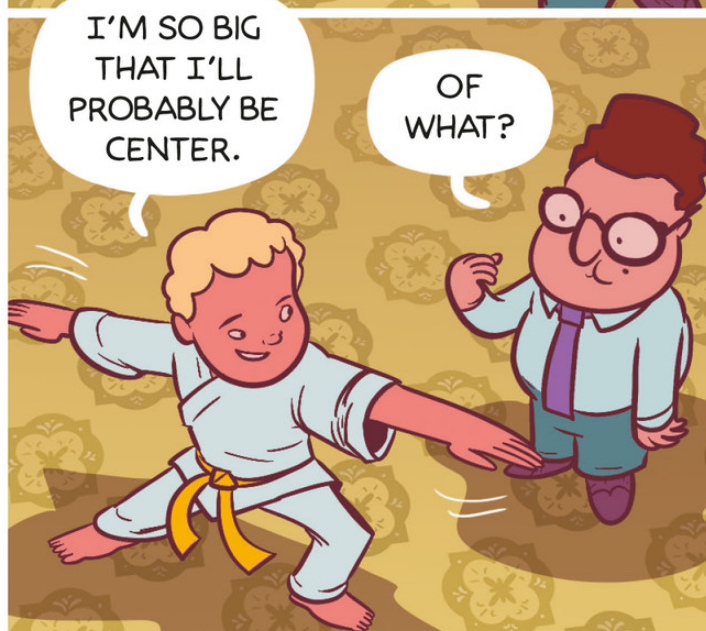
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE POWDER. WE WENT BACK TO HIDDEN VALLEY.



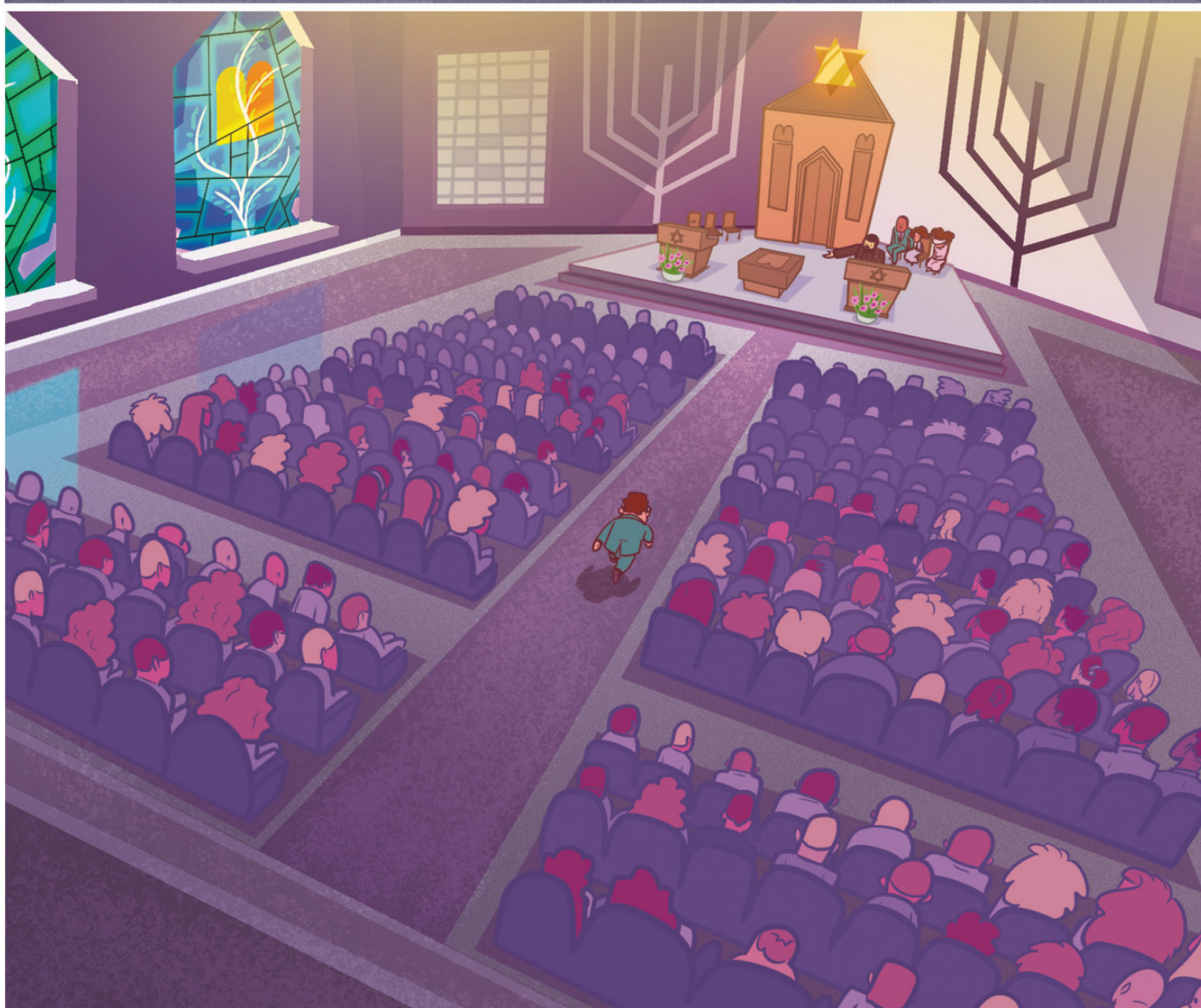
HEY, MAJECITO, REMEMBER WHEN YOU HAD TO BE RESCUED ON THE SKI SLOPES?

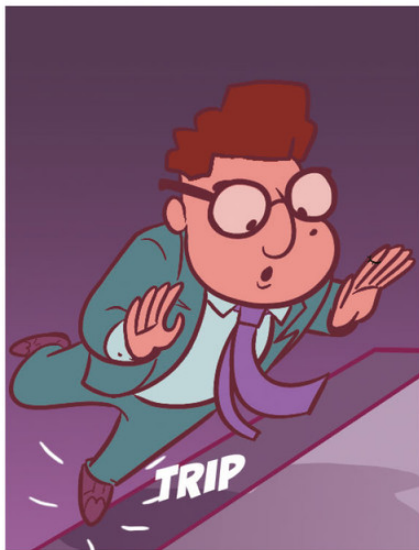
I DO.

IT DIDN'T GO WELL . . .



AND NOW
WYNNIE'S
BROTHER
WILL READ A
PASSAGE.





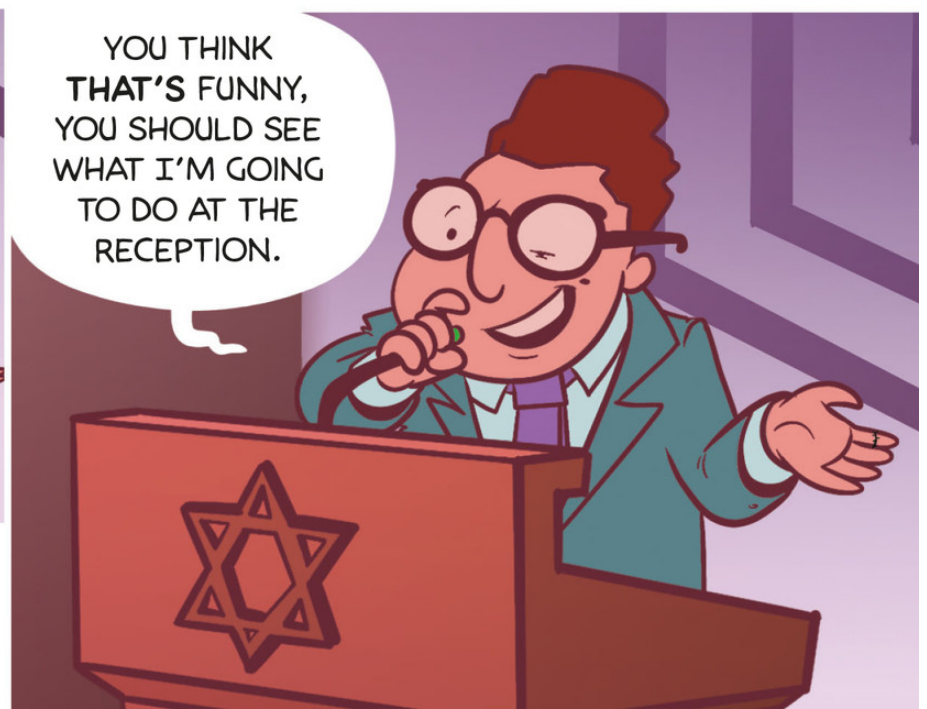
CHUCKLE

GIGGLE

CHUCKLE



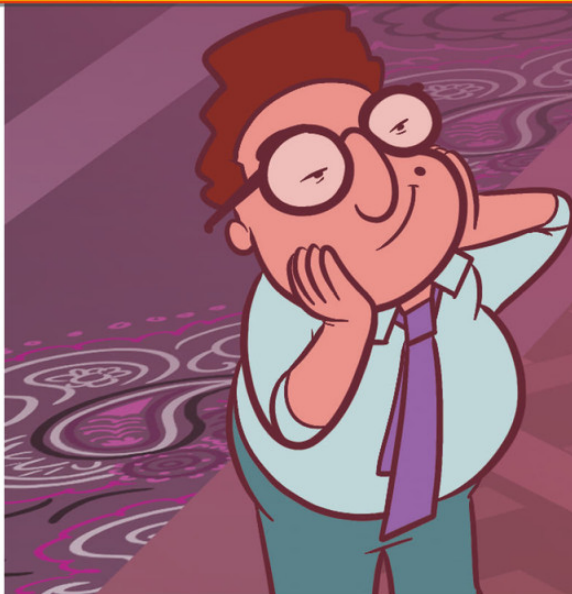
GUFFAW BELLY LAUGH GUFFAW



You Are Invited to Wynn's Bat Mitzvah



HUDI IS LOOKING TO PUT POINTS ON THE BOARD AT THE BAT MITZVAH PARTY.



30 : 00

FUNNY

00

ANNOYING

00



DOING THE CABBAGE PATCH DANCE COULD FALL FLAT, BUT HUDI MAKES IT WORK.



25 : 12

FUNNY

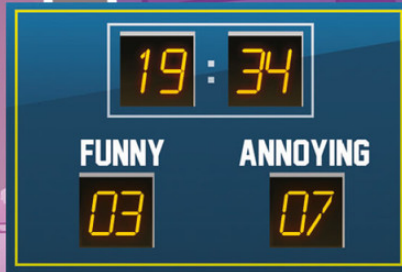
02

ANNOYING

03



HUDI'S FATHER IS CELEBRATING GETTING HIS US CITIZENSHIP.
MIGHT NOT BE THE TIME TO JOKE AROUND.



THE FOOD PROP GAG CAN
ONLY GET SO MANY LAUGHS.
TIME IS NOT ON HIS SIDE.



S

THE DANCING WITH THE OLD LADY BIT USUALLY WORKS, BUT THE CROWD IS SENSING DESPERATION.

07 : 10

FUNNY

25

ANNOYING

13

03 : 04

FUNNY

26

ANNOYING

19



S

YIKES. THAT SHIRT LOOKS LIKE A SLIP 'N SLIDE.





IF HUDI CAN MAKE WYNNIE'S FRIENDS LAUGH, HE CAN GET SOME MAJOR POINTS ON THE BOARD.

02 : 16

FUNNY

26

ANNOYING

19



SLIDE

HUDI!!!!

SMACK

00 : 25

FUNNY

26

ANNOYING

20





S AND THAT IS THAT. GAME OVER.

S SOME LOSSES YOU JUST CAN'T BOUNCE BACK FROM.



POSTGAME WRAP-UP

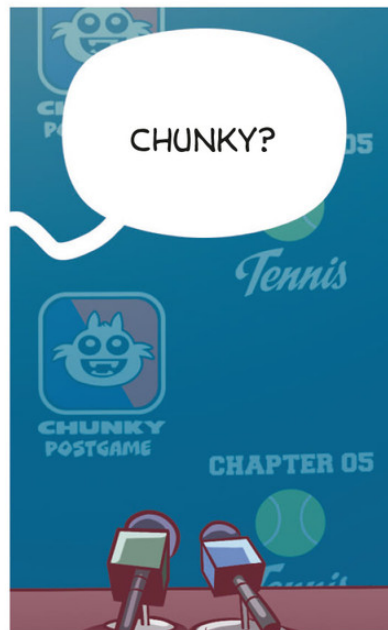
I THOUGHT I HAD
SOME REALLY GOOD
MOVES OUT THERE.
I DIDN'T RELY TOO
HEAVILY ON DOING
THE ROBOT.

I DON'T GET
ENOUGH CREDIT
FOR **NOT**
OVERUSING THE
ROBOT.

WAIT, AREN'T
WE GLOSSING
OVER THE
MAJOR TURN
OF EVENTS?

I WAS ABOUT
TO GET TO THE
PIÑATA.

NO, YOUR
FATHER MOVING
OUT AND GOING
HALFWAY
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY.

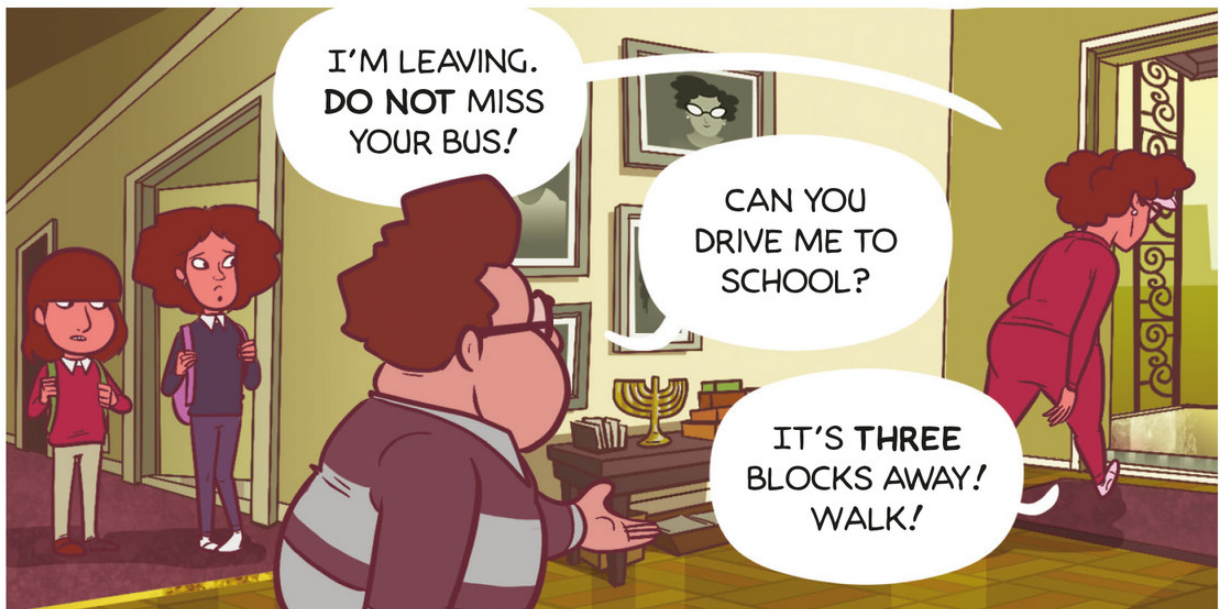


CHAPTER SIX

Football

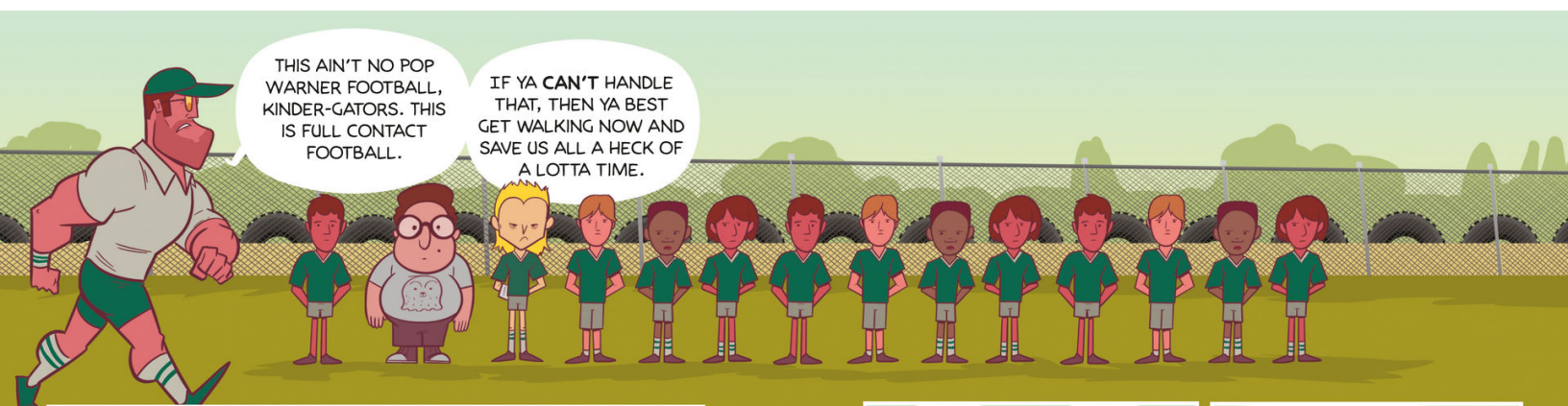






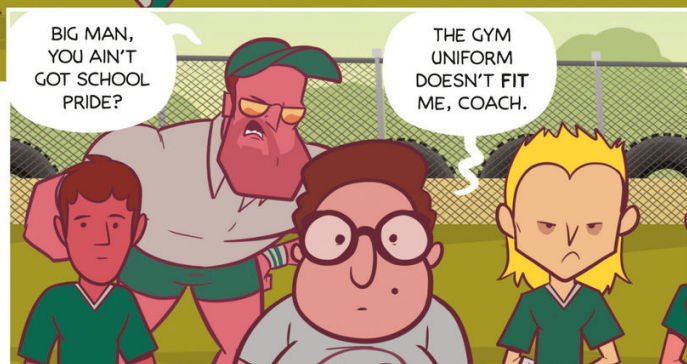






THIS AIN'T NO POP
WARNER FOOTBALL,
KINDER-GATORS. THIS
IS FULL CONTACT
FOOTBALL.

IF YA **CAN'T** HANDLE
THAT, THEN YA BEST
GET WALKING NOW AND
SAVE US ALL A HECK OF
A LOTTA TIME.

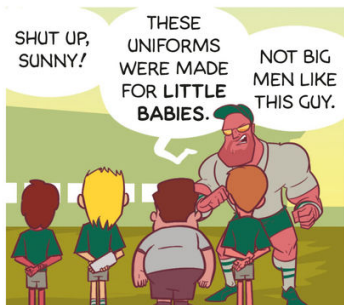


BIG MAN,
YOU AIN'T
GOT SCHOOL
PRIDE?

THE GYM
UNIFORM
DOESN'T FIT
ME, COACH.



HAH!
FATSO!



SHUT UP,
SUNNY!

THESE
UNIFORMS
WERE MADE
FOR LITTLE
BABIES.

NOT BIG
MEN LIKE
THIS GUY.



WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
BIG MAN?

YEHUDI
MERCADO.



'RADO. I
LIKE THAT.



BY THE END OF THE
FOOTBALL SEASON,
Y'ALL BETTER BE
BUSTIN' OUT OF THESE
BABY GYM UNIFORMS
LIKE 'RADO HERE.

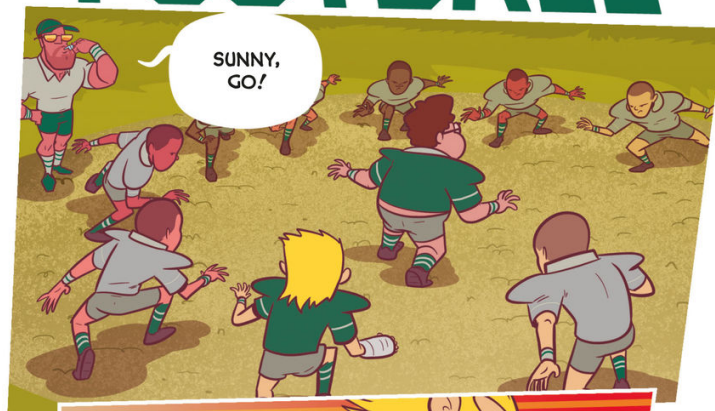
THIS IS
TEXAS
FOOTBALL.

YES, COACH!

LET'S PLAY SOME



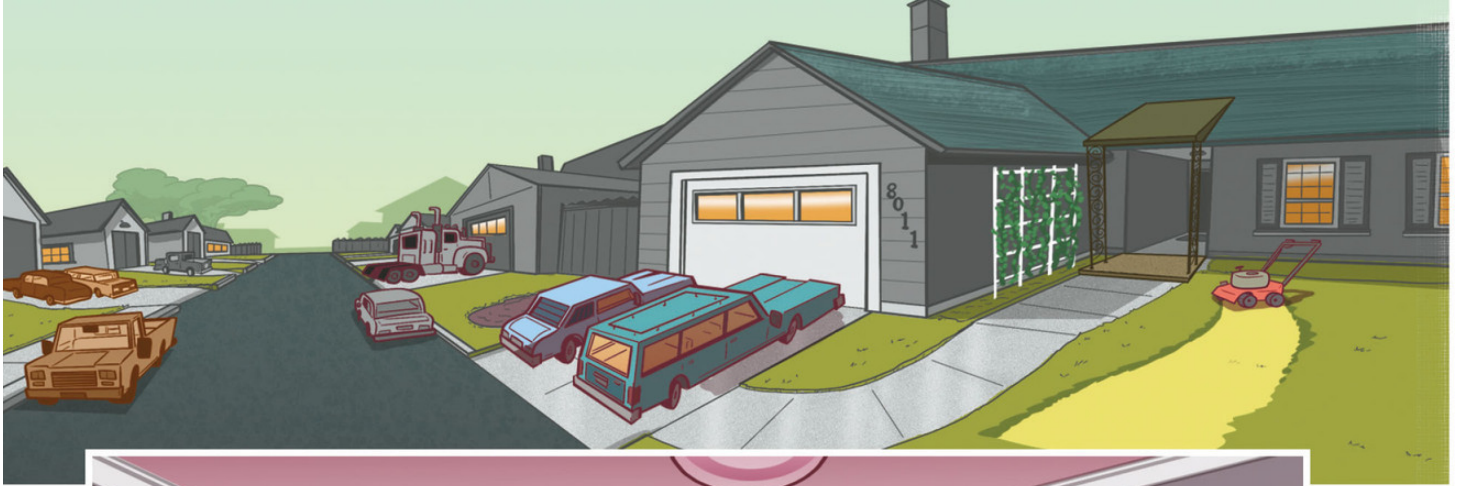
FOOTBALL





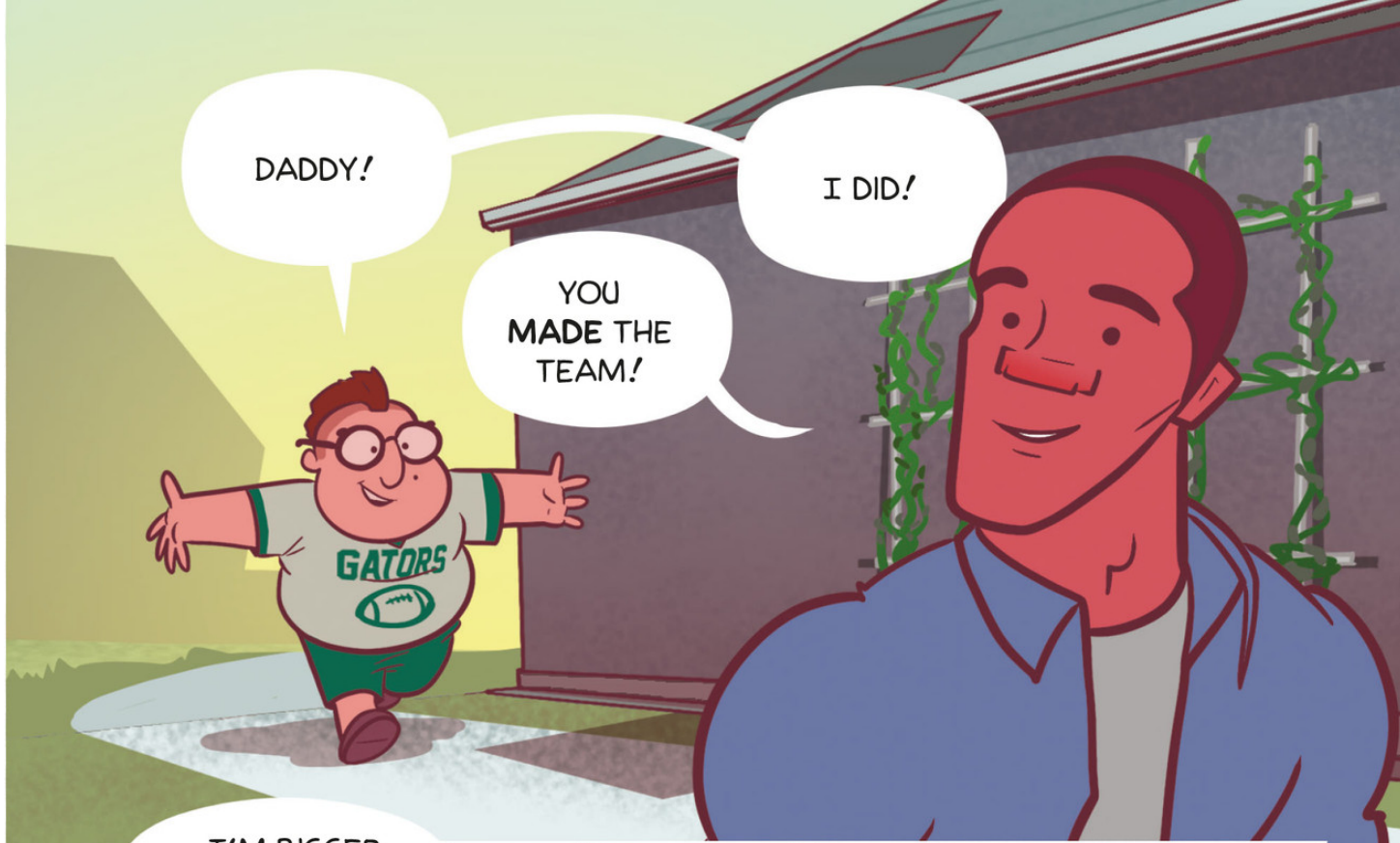


YOU'RE A
MONSTER,
'RADO.



DADDY'S
HOME?

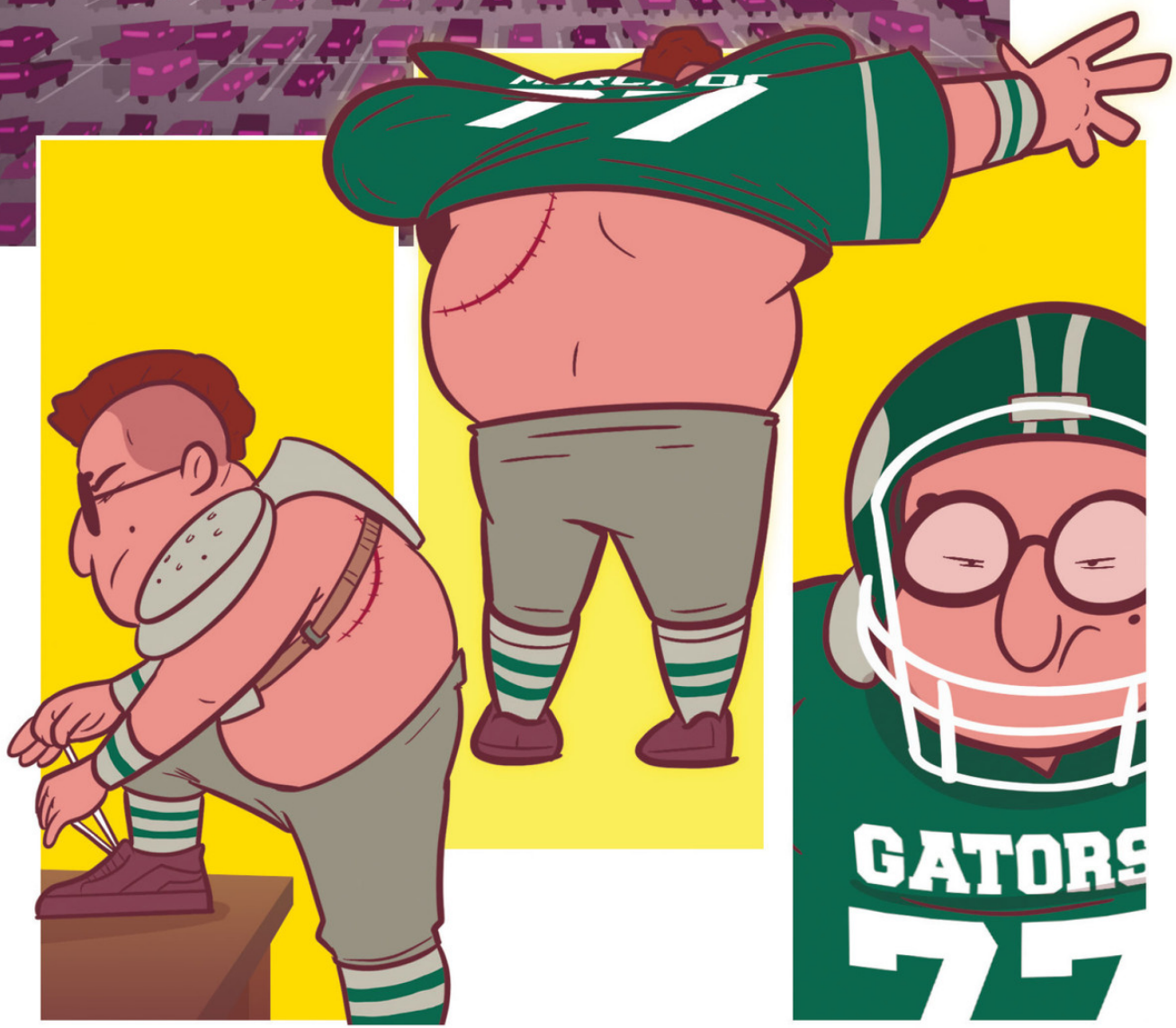


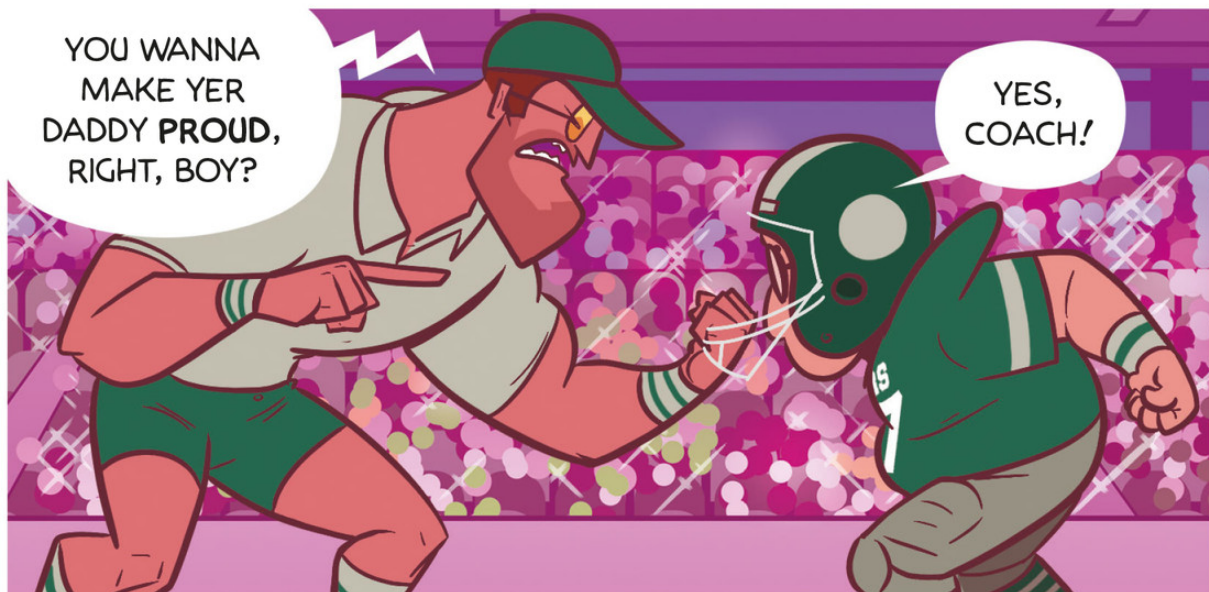




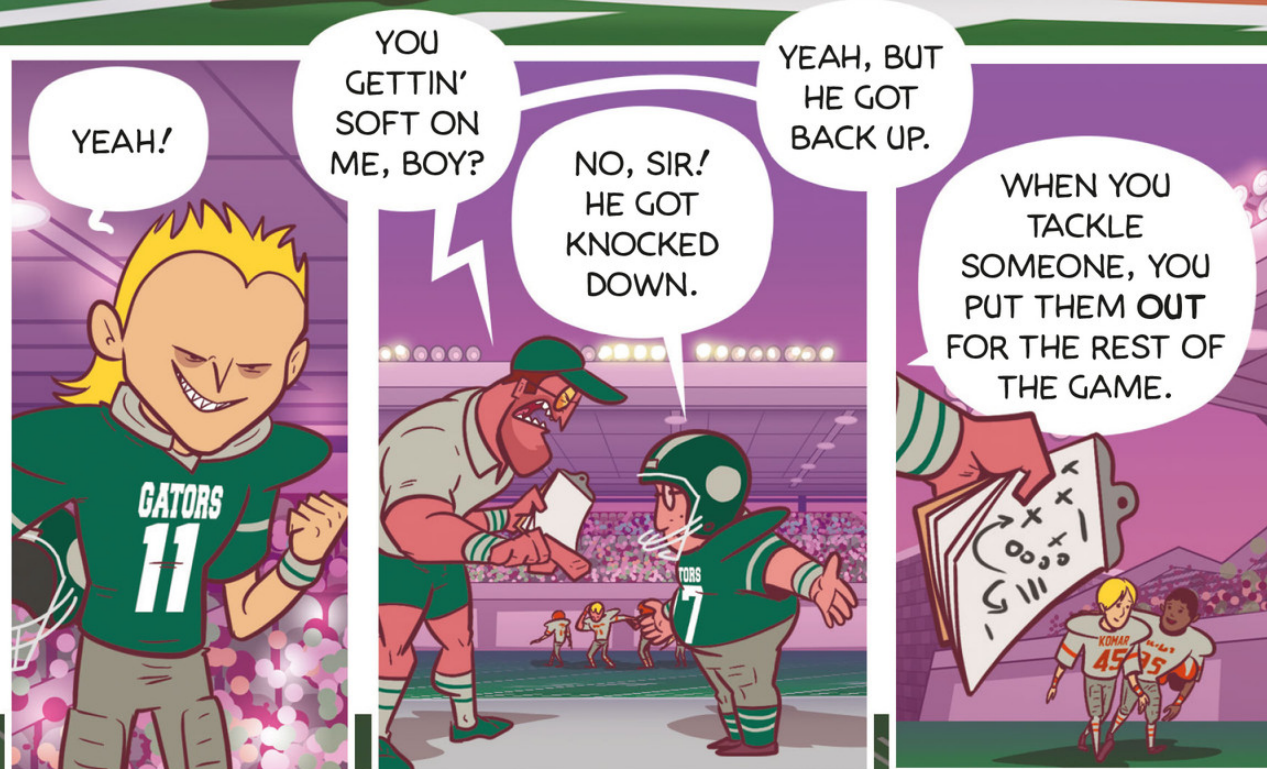
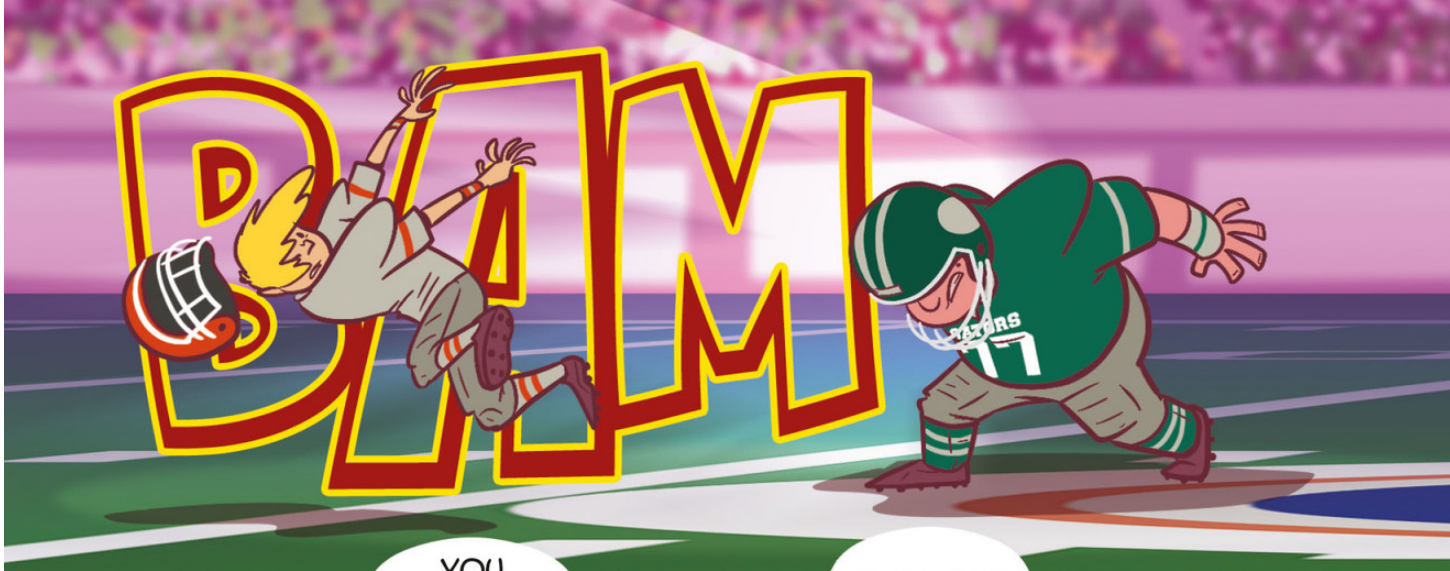


THIS IS IT, FOLKS. ONE LAST GAME, ONE
LAST CHANCE TO MAKE HIS FATHER PROUD.
IT'S ALL ON THE LINE.









HALFTIME!

00:00

GATORS

20

FALCONS

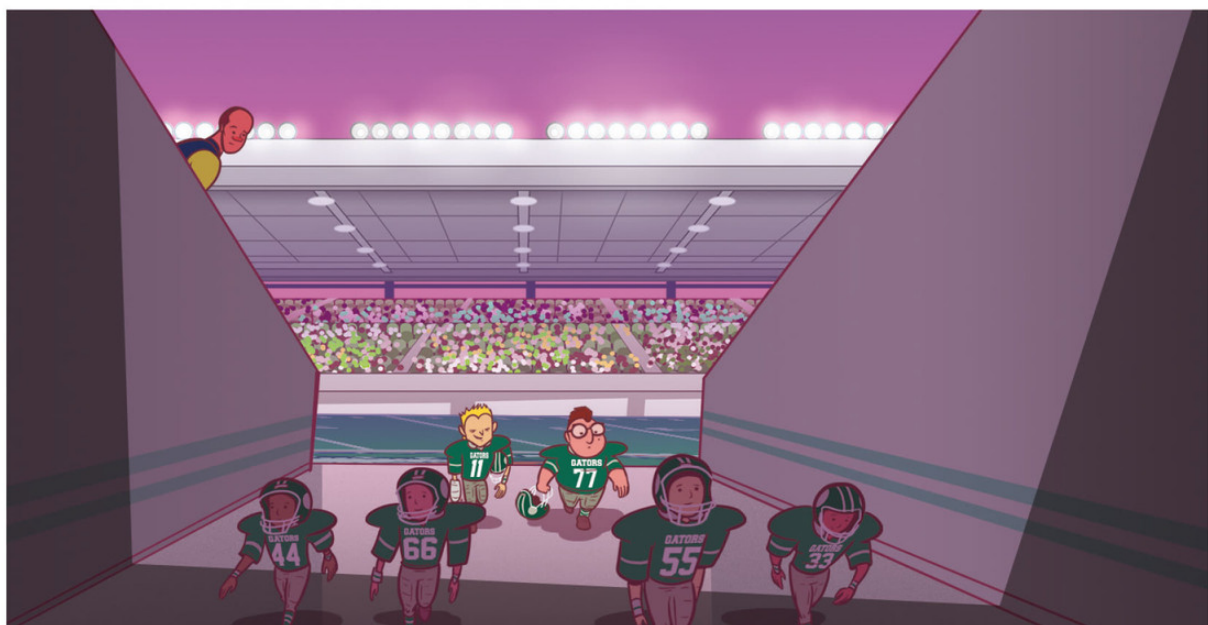
07

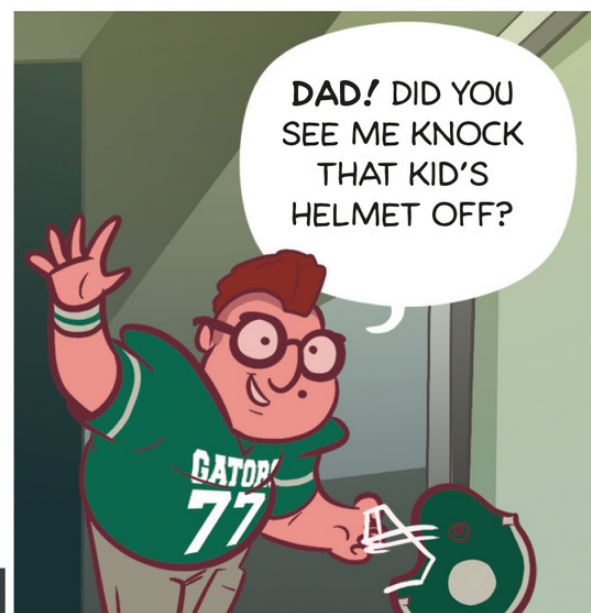
PIPE ORGAN
PIZZA

IT'S A
LITTLE
VIOLENT,
RIGHT?

FOR A
JUNIOR HIGH
GAME.

I'LL GO
TALK TO
HIM.





MY OLDER BROTHER, JORGE, WAS THE **BEST** FOOTBALL PLAYER IN COLLEGE.

AT THE UNAM. HE WAS THERE ABOUT FOUR YEARS BEFORE I STARTED.

JORGE WAS SO GOOD THAT HE WOULD PLAY **BOTH** OFFENSE AND DEFENSE AND THEN DURING HALFTIME HE WOULD ALSO PLAY IN THE MARCHING BAND.



WHAT? REALLY?

YEAH, HE WOULD PLAY IN THE BAND IN HIS FOOTBALL UNIFORM.

MERCADO

YOU REMEMBER MY FATHER, THE GENERAL . . .

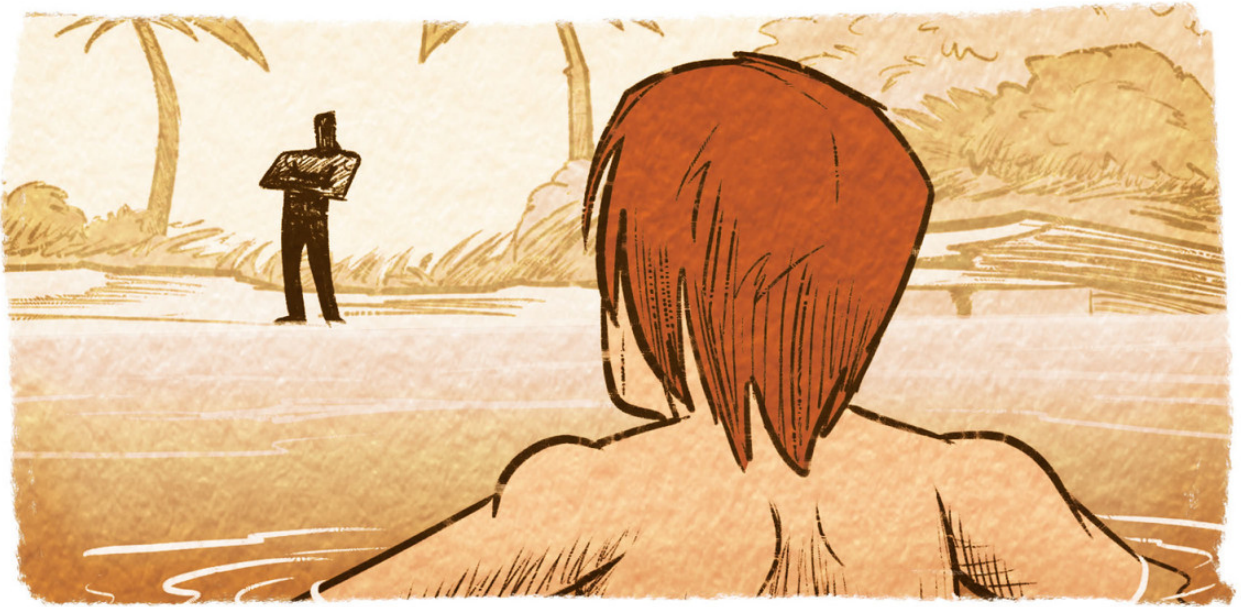
YEAH.

KIND OF . . .

THE WAY THE
GENERAL TAUGHT
JORGE HOW TO
SWIM WAS BY
THROWING HIM INTO
THE LAKE . . .



. . . AND HE
WOULDN'T LET
HIM GET OUT OF
THE WATER UNTIL
HE SWAM TO THE
MIDDLE AND BACK.



JORGE DIDN'T
KNOW HOW TO
SWIM AND THERE
HE WAS . . .



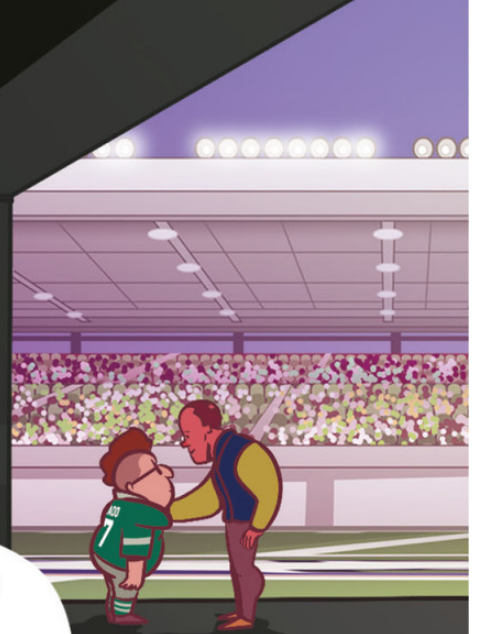
HE HAD TO SWIM
VERY FAR IN
A LAKE THAT
WOULD BE HARD
FOR ME TO SWIM
IN NOW.

JORGE SWAM TO THE
MIDDLE AND BACK.
JORGE WAS A NATURAL
ATHLETE AND WAS
GREAT AT EVERYTHING
HE DID.

BECAUSE OF THE
GENERAL, HE
WORKED HARD AT
EVERYTHING. BUT . . .

BUT I THINK THAT
WHAT JORGE
REALLY WANTED
TO DO WAS PLAY
IN THE MARCHING
BAND.

HE WAS PLAYING
FOOTBALL
BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT THE
GENERAL MADE
HIM DO.

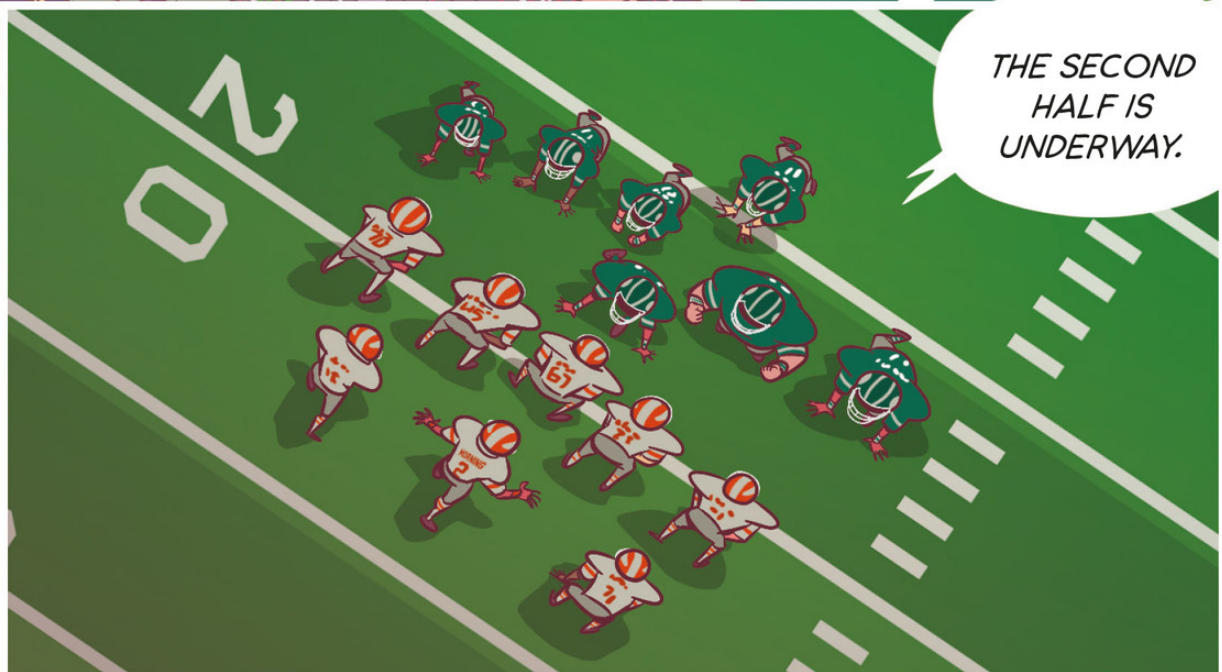
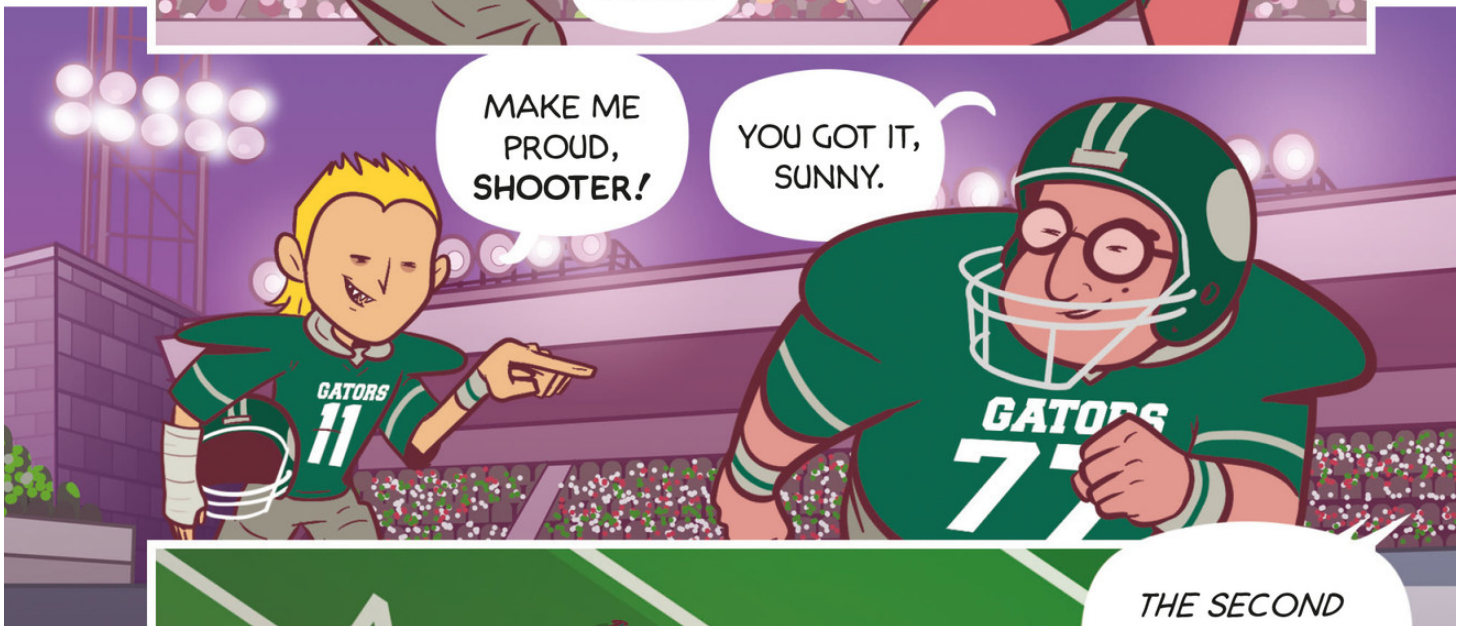


HELMETS
ON,
KINDER-
GATORS!

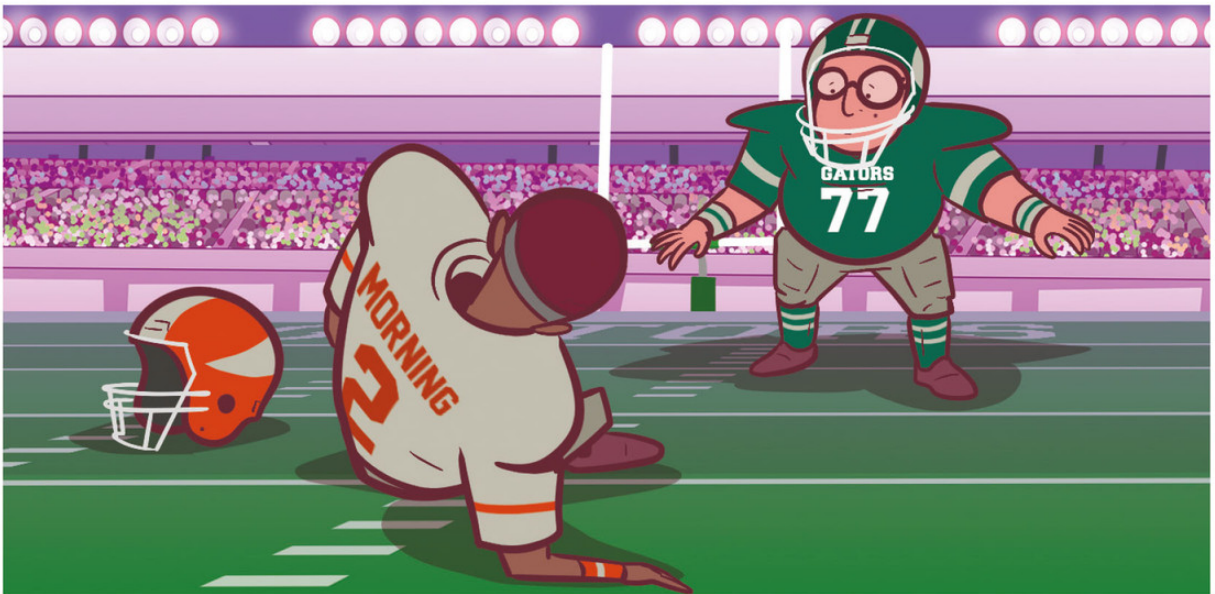


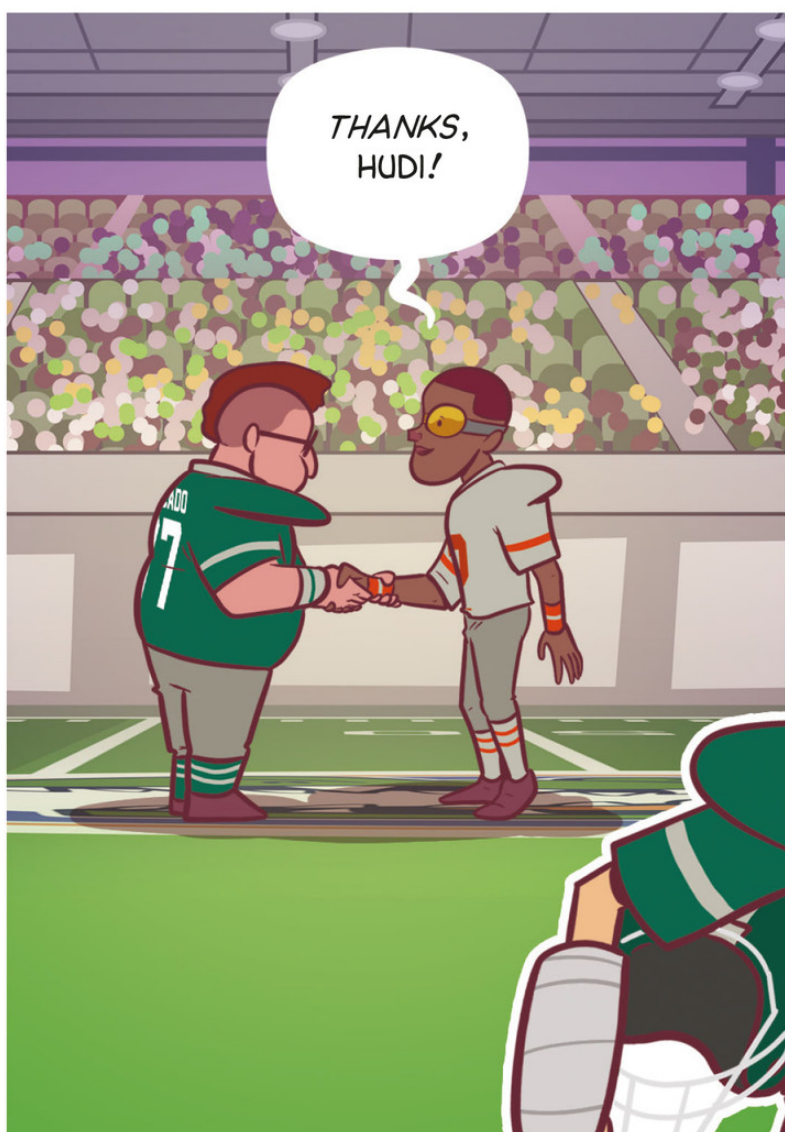
I SHOULD
GO.



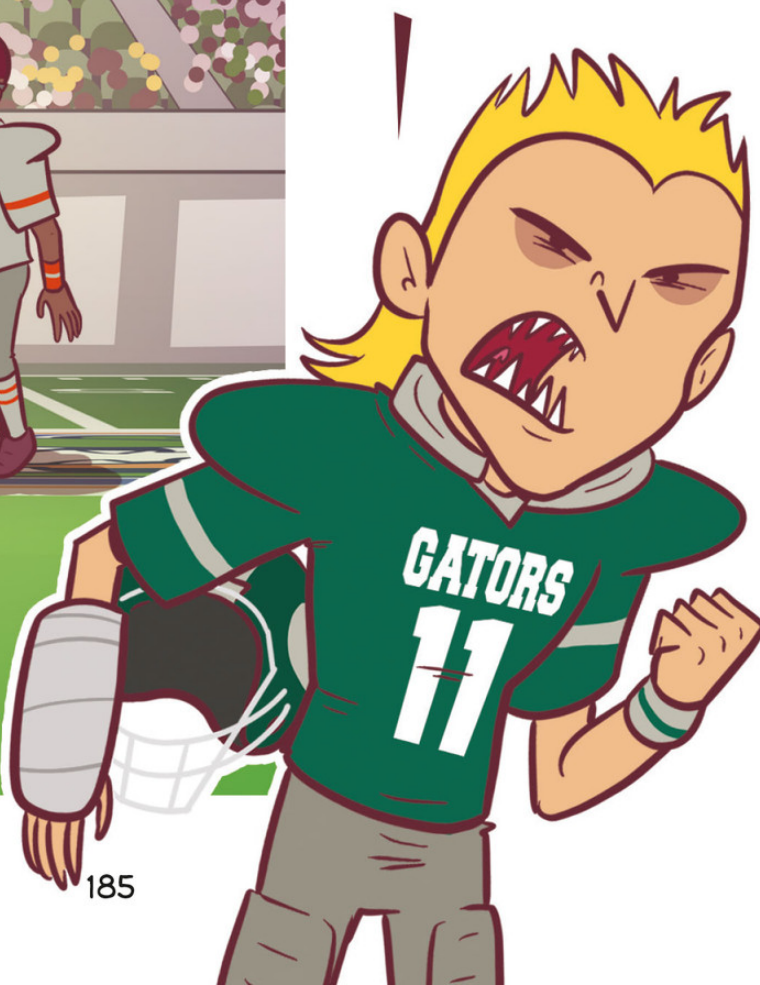


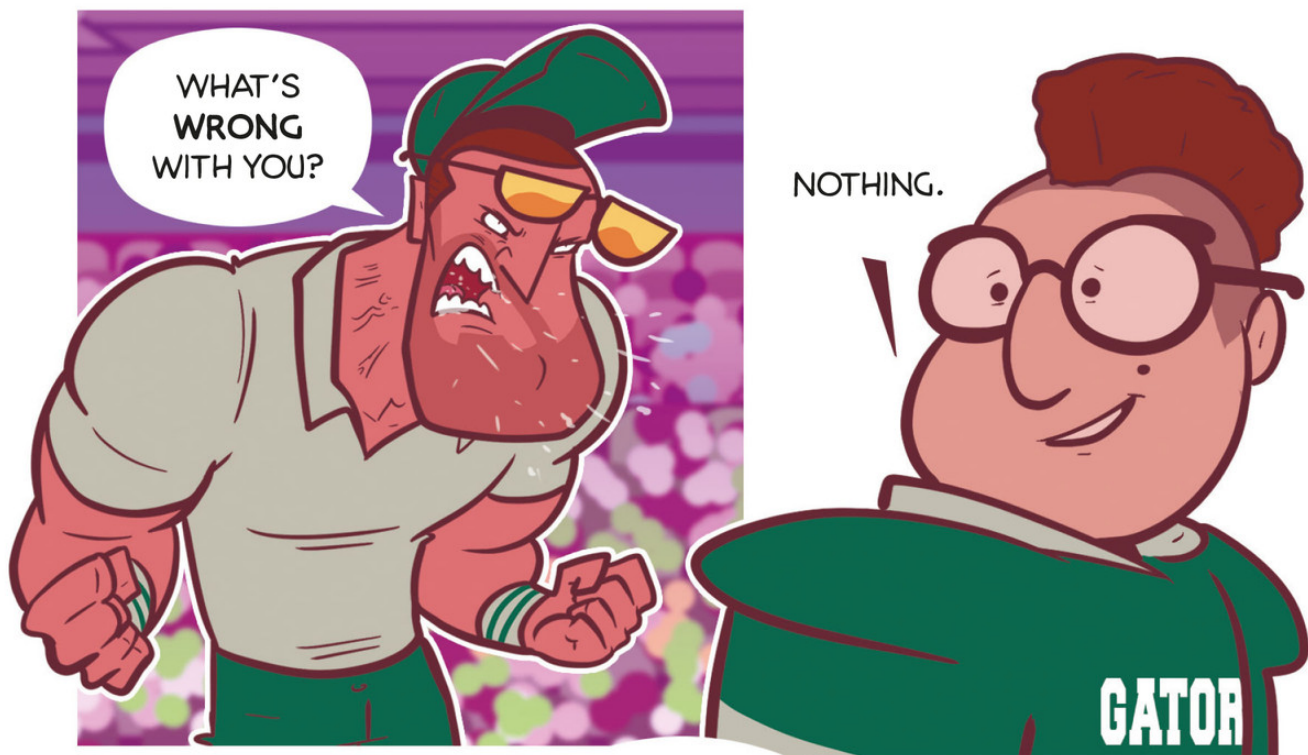






HEY! FATSO!
DON'T HELP HIM
UP! HE'S THE
ENEMY!















IN ALL MY YEARS OF CALLING PLAY-BY-PLAY GAMES, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A SPECTACULAR . . . SPECTACLE.

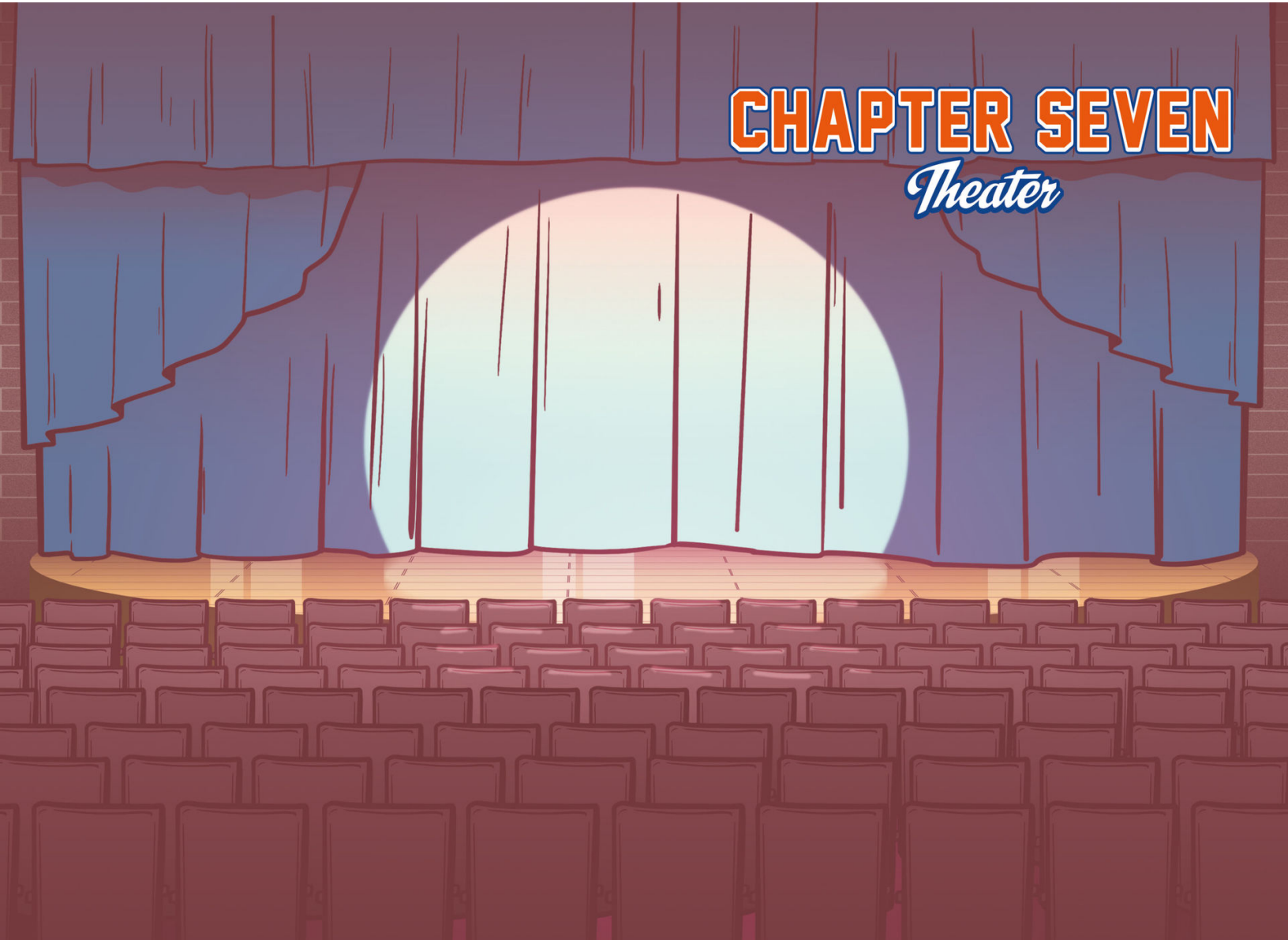


THIS ROOKIE NEEDS TO GET OFF THE FIELD AND ONTO A STAGE.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Theater





THEY SAY THERE ARE NO DO-OVERS IN SPORTS, AND YET EVERY SEASON IS A CHANCE TO START OVER.

YOU SHOULD BE.
YOU FORGOT
TO WEAR YOUR
PANTS TODAY.

I'M
NERVOUS,
CHUNKY.

NO, HUDI, YOU'RE
JUST IMAGINING
PANTS. THOSE
ARE **IMAGINARY**
PANTS!

STOP
IT! NO I
DIDN'T.

CUT IT
OUT!

OKAY . . . GO
AHEAD AND WALK
OUT ONSTAGE
WITH **NO PANTS**
ON.



YOU THINK
I'LL GET THE
PART?

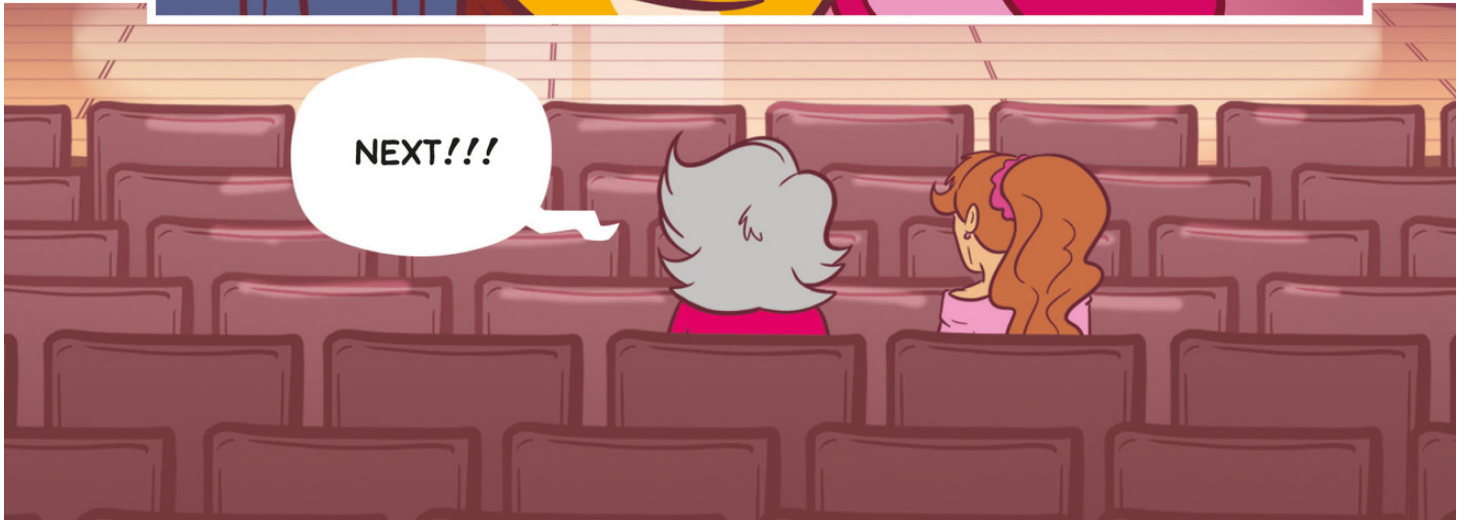


HUDI . . . YOU'RE
THE **FUNNIEST** KID
I'VE EVER HAD THE
PLEASURE OF BEING
AN IMAGINARY
MASCOT FOR.



THE PLAY IS
*ROMEO AND
JULIET*. IT'S
A TRAGEDY.

WELL, LET'S
HOPE THEY
ADD A **LAUGH**
TRACK.



NEXT!!!



HELLO, MRS. MILLER.
MY NAME IS YEHUDI
MERCADO AND FOR
MY AUDITION I'LL BE
DOING . . .

. . . EDDIE MURPHY'S
MONOLOGUE FROM THE
DECEMBER FIFTEENTH,
1984, EPISODE OF
SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE.

S HUDI DID GET THE PART.

S THEN HE FELL OFF THE STAGE.

S HE DID NOT HAVE TO
GO TO THE EMERGENCY
ROOM.

POSTSEASON WRAP-UP

S

SO THAT
WAS THE END
OF HUDI'S
FOOTBALL
CAREER?

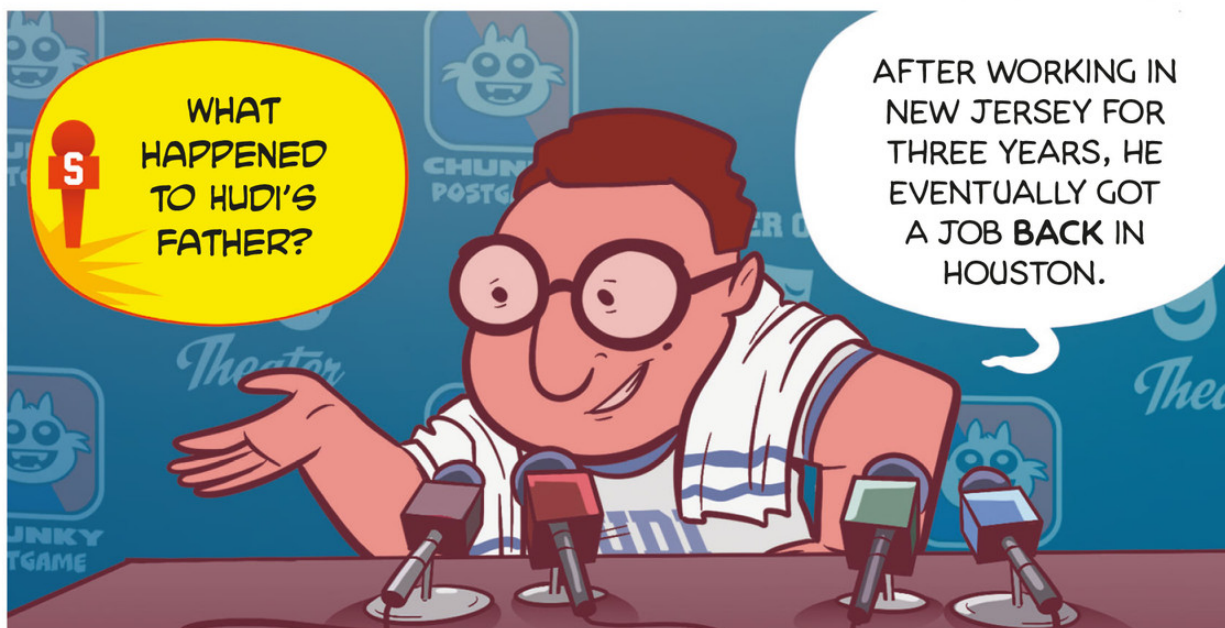
WE FELT LIKE IT WAS
MORE IMPORTANT
FOR HUDI TO
CONCENTRATE ON
HIS ART.



S

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HUDI'S
FATHER?

AFTER WORKING IN
NEW JERSEY FOR
THREE YEARS, HE
EVENTUALLY GOT
A JOB **BACK** IN
HOUSTON.







I'M VERY
PROUD OF YOU.

THINKING MERCY
FUNNIEST
IN SCHOOL



THE END



AUTHOR'S NOTE

First of all, my parents want you to know that they weren't *that* pushy.

I want to thank them profusely for all the support they've shown me my whole life. They always encouraged my artistic pursuits. My father, while being a great athlete, is also an amazing artist. So we always had art supplies all over the house and I was never without a sketch pad or a fist full of markers.

All the health issues in the book are real. All the trips to the emergency room and the hospital really happened. Dr. Plumb was the doctor who performed my lung operation. I only remember flashes of that time. The whole operation and the recovery took me out of school for half a year. I actually had to repeat the first grade, which really bothered me, because I had done all the reading and homework from home—thanks to my mother, who was a teacher.

I continued with football until the eighth grade, but I never really loved it. Texas football was very brutal, and some of those drills are now outlawed. But there was one incident where I hurt my arm, and that's when it hit me. I didn't want to risk injuring my drawing hand because art meant way more to me than sports. I may not be a sports fan, but I do love sports movies.



Yehudi's father at Wynnie's Bat Mitzvah celebrating his US citizenship.

Being “Chunky” isn’t about being fat. Being Chunky is about feeling like you don’t fit in. As a Mexican Jewish kid with loads of health problems growing up in Houston, Texas, I never felt like I fit in anywhere. It wasn’t until I discovered theater that I felt like I finally found my people. In high school I tried out for all the plays. I was playing leads by sophomore year. I went to speech tournaments and competed in various categories like mime, duets, and monologues. My senior year I played Richard III in the UIL (University Interscholastic League) One-Act Play Contest and we went all the way to state. I guess making theater into a sport was a very “Texas” thing to do.

This book is dedicated to my high school drama teacher, Mrs. Marylyn Miller. That’s the back of her head on page 195. She passed away in 2012. She helped shape me into the person I am; she let me write and direct plays and always cheered me on. I never would have had the confidence to do what I now do for a living if it weren’t for Mrs. Miller.

Find that thing that sparks your imagination. Find your people. Find your Chunky.

Special thanks to
Ben Rosenthal
Raina Telgemeier
Dave Scheidt
Charlie Olsen
Eileen Anderson
the Hoodis family
the Warfields
the Pueblitzes
and
Katherine Tegen



Yehudi in junior high on the Campbell Gators football team.

Courtesy of Yehudi Mercado



YEHUDI MERCADO

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A TRUE STORY . . . WITH AN IMAGINARY FRIEND.



Hudi needs to lose weight, according to his doctors. Concerned about the serious medical issue Hudi had when he was younger, his parents push him to try out for sports. Hudi would rather do anything else, but then he meets Chunky, his imaginary friend and mascot. Together, they decide to give baseball a shot.

As the only Mexican and Jewish kid in his neighborhood, Hudi has found the cheerleader he never had, as Chunky cheers him on even when Hudi barely makes the team. Baseball doesn't go well (unless getting hit by the ball counts), but the two friends have a great time drawing and making jokes. While Hudi's parents keep trying to find the right sport for him, Chunky encourages him to pursue his true love—comedy.

But when Hudi's dad loses his job, it gets harder for Hudi to chart his own course, even with Chunky's guidance. Can Chunky help Hudi stay true to himself, or will this friendship strike out?



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Ages 8-12

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